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FirstGlimpse®

DIGITAL IMAGING: pages 21 to 37

Nikon's COOLPIX S4000 p. 21



HOME THEATER: pages 8 to 20

Toshiba's BDX2500
Blu-ray Disc Player p. 8

COMPUTERS: pages 43 to 59

Belkin's Play
Wireless Router p. 43

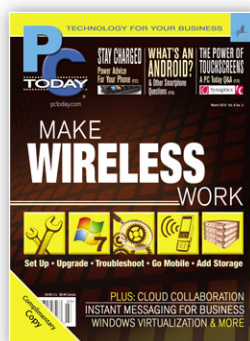
PORTABLE DEVICES: pages 60 to 66

TomTom's XL 350TM p. 60



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Our plain-English approach has served audiences well for 30 years, ensuring they receive accurate and unbiased technology information to meet their needs.



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Table Of Contents • Volume 7 Issue 5

On Our Cover: Featured on this month's cover is Nikon's COOLPIX S4000 (\$199.95; www.nikonusa.com), Toshiba's BDX2500 Blu-ray Disc Player (\$199.99; www.tacp.toshiba.com), Belkin's Play Wireless Router (\$99.99; www.belkin.com), and TomTom's XL 350TM GPS (\$229; www.tomtom.com).



Get Details On The Latest Product Arrivals

- ALPINE** Alpine iDA-X3055 Digital Media Receiver
■ See page 78
- BELKIN** Belkin Play Wireless Router
■ See page 43
- FUJIFILM** Fujifilm FinePix Z70
■ See page 34
- INSIGNIA** Insignia NS-DSC1112SL Digital Camera
■ See page 35
- Nikon** Nikon S4000
■ See page 33
- OLYMPUS** Olympus FE-4030
■ See page 24
- Olympus PEN E-PL1
■ See page 24
- Olympus Stylus 7030
■ See page 24
- Olympus Stylus TOUGH-6020
■ See page 24
- Olympus Stylus TOUGH-8010
■ See page 24
- SHARP** Sharp AQUOS LE810 LED-LCD TVs
■ See page 19
- TOMTOM** TomTomXL 350TM
■ See page 60
- TOSHIBA** Toshiba BDX2500 Blu-ray Disc Player
■ See page 8

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The Connected Home

Discover New Possibilities With Today's Technology

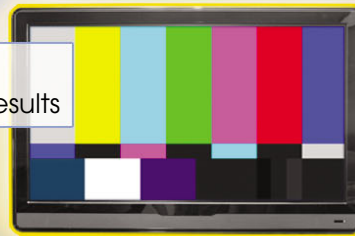
TODAY A WIDE VARIETY of digital devices and technologies work together to make all kinds of information available whenever and wherever you need it. Stream movies to your home theater; download photos from a relative overseas to a photo frame in your living room; or upload music from your MP3 player to your car. Whatever you want to do, there's a product out there to help you do it. Use this digital home blueprint to identify the types of things you want to do, and then go to the appropriate pages to learn about related products and technologies.

23 Be Social With Photos & Video
Digital Devices That Make Web Sharing Easy



66 Essential Things To Know
Bluetooth-Enabled MP3 Players

14 Yes, You Need To Calibrate
Get Optimal HDTV Video Results



11 Simple Home-Theater Audio
Surround Sound In A Snap



9 How To Buy A Blu-ray Disc Player
Not All Players Are Alike



Inside This Issue

Home Theater pages 8 to 20

Digital Imaging pages 21 to 37

Computers pages 43 to 59

Portable Devices pages 60 to 70

Gaming, Media & More pages 71 to 80

This Month's Lifestyle Close-up:

Gifts For Moms, Dads & Grads pages 38 to 42

63 Your Music, Your Way
The Flexibility Of Digital Music

71 How To Buy A Portable Gaming Console
More Than Just For Gaming

74 Essential Things To Know
Gaming Furniture

65 Car Security Terminology

45 Bring Your TV & PC Together
Enjoy More With A TV Tuner
& Media Storage Device

ce news

COMPILED BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

The Golden Age Of Mobile Apps

A new study predicts that the already-popular mobile app download market will boom in the coming years. The study suggests that in 2012, mobile device users will download 50 billion apps and create \$17.5 billion in revenue for app makers and carriers. For 2009, those numbers were 7 billion app downloads and \$4 billion in revenue. At this rate, the app market will eclipse the CD market in total value sometime during 2012. With that kind of revenue growth, it's not surprising to see others looking to cash in on the phenomenon: There were eight app stores in the beginning of 2009, but by the end of the year, there were 38. The average selling price of apps was \$1.90 in 2009, but the study authors expect that price to decrease by 29% over the next three years.



More Smartphones Will Have Wi-Fi

ABI Research recently reported that although approximately 50% of smartphones sold to date include built-in Wi-Fi, by 2014, that percentage will climb to 90%. The reason for the big Wi-Fi push is because the ubiquitous wireless protocol has the capability to give the already-overtaxed cellular networks a respite from bandwidth-intensive multimedia applications, which are becoming more and more popular with smartphone users. AT&T is leading the charge by offering its iPhone users free access at more than 20,000 of its Wi-Fi hotspots. ABI Research expects Wi-Fi in smartphones to proliferate even as higher-bandwidth 4G wireless networks become available. The firm also predicts that 802.11n will become the most popular Wi-Fi technology used in phones, largely thanks to its potential for greater range and throughput speeds compared to 802.11g, which is the predominant protocol used in mobiles today.

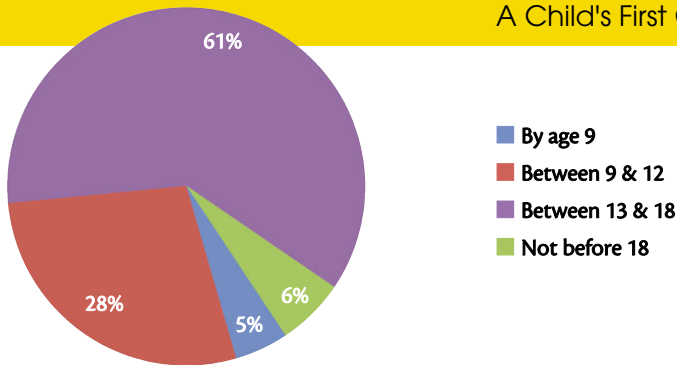


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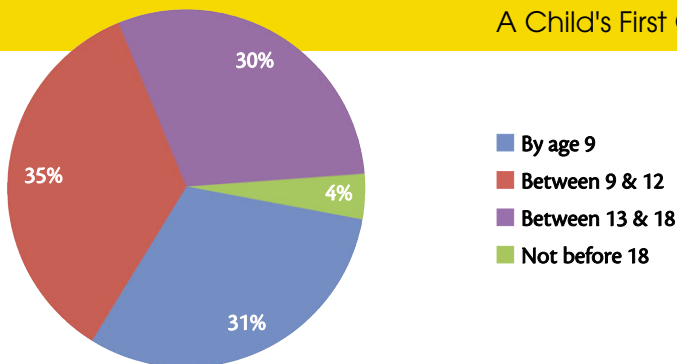
When Are Kids Old Enough For Gadgets?

The latest Retrevo Gadgetology Report asked parents at what age should children get their first cell phone, PC, and TV, and their responses may surprise you. According to the study, 30% of parents think kids between the ages of 13 and 18 are old enough for their first TV and PC. An overwhelming 61% of parents also think this age is ideal for a first cell phone. Children between the ages of nine and 12 are ready for their first TV, according to 20% of parents; a first cell phone, according to 28% of parents; and a first PC, according to 35% of parents. Kids under nine are ready for a first PC, TV, and cell phone, according to 31%, 27%, and 5% of parents, respectively. The gadget prudes who believe that PCs, cell phones, and TVs are not suitable for kids under 18 account for 4%, 6%, and 23% of the respondents, respectively.

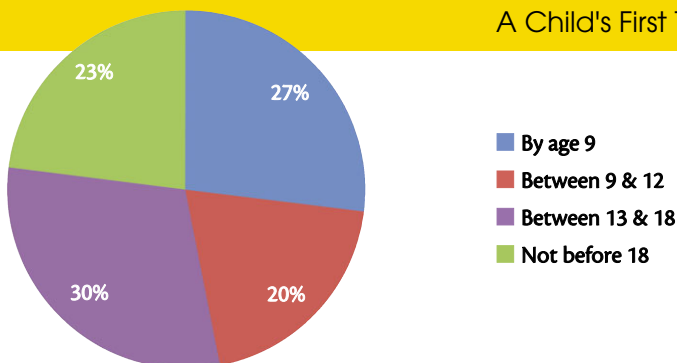
A Child's First Cell Phone



A Child's First Computer



A Child's First TV



Source: Retrevo

tidbits

A report from IDC claims that the recession has led to a boom in prepaid cellular service. According to one survey, 65% of the new wireless subscribers in Q4 2009 were signing on for prepaid service. Some prepaid cellular plans let users enjoy unlimited voice, text, and Web access for as little as \$45 a month.

Source: IDC

According to Gartner, lower prices will contribute to a 96.8% rise in touchscreen-enabled mobile device sales in 2010, compared to last year. In total unit sales, touchscreen mobile devices will ship to the tune of nearly 363 million by the end of the year. Last year, 184 million touchscreen mobile devices shipped.

Source: Gartner



In the United States, there are approximately 46 million gamers who play MMO (massively multiplayer online) games. Of these, 46% pay for the game, leading to total revenues of \$1.8 billion for monthly subscription-based games.

Source: GamesIndustry.com



Flat-panel TVs were popular last year, increasing in unit sales by 32% com-

pared to 2008. A new TV market forecast for 2010, however, predicts that 180 million LCD TVs will ship in 2010, which is a 24% increase compared to 2009.

Source: DisplaySearch

Toshiba's Feature-Packed Blu-ray Disc Player

The BDX2500 Expands Multimedia Capabilities



Toshiba BDX2500
Blu-ray Disc Player
\$199.99
www.tacp.toshiba.com

Rolling out as part of Toshiba's latest series of Blu-ray Disc players, the Toshiba BDX2500 (\$199.99; www.tacp.toshiba.com) enhances your home-entertainment experience by delivering a package of features that will not only give you high-definition playback, but will also keep you virtually connected to plenty of online content.

Connect To Entertainment

With the BDX2500, you get to control the way you access online content and view it in your home. The BD player is Wi-Fi-ready, letting you connect it to your wireless home network when you add the optional Toshiba WiFi adapter. Via online streaming, you'll be able to retrieve thousands of entertainment options, such as movies through Netflix and Blockbuster On Demand, as well as access to 1080p VUDU content. When connected to the Internet, the BD player's BD-Live 2.0 capability gives you access to movie extras and disc features,

such as the latest movie previews and mini games, and the integrated SD memory card slot lets you save online content. The BDX2500 also includes an HDMI-CEC (Consumer Electronics Control) port. When you use it to connect the BDX2500 to your HDTV, you'll be able to control both components using a single remote, so you won't have to operate and turn each device on and off separately.

Feature Lineup

- With an optional wireless adapter, you can stream content from Netflix, Blockbuster On Demand, VUDU, and Pandora.
- Full HD 1080p video at 24fps video output lets you view high-def multimedia on your HDTV.
- Offers a high-definition audio experience by including built-in Dolby TrueHD and DTS-HD Master Audio|Essential decoding.
- The included BD-Live 2.0 feature gives you access to special features and exclusive online content for Blu-ray discs.

Visual Capabilities

The BDX2500 features Full HD 1080p video output, producing an image at 24fps. This resolution displays both DVDs and Blu-ray Discs at the highest possible resolution. And, Toshiba's BDX2500 upconverts the standard-definition picture of a DVD to near high definition, so you can view favorites from your movie collection at a resolution that is as close to the visual excellence of Blu-ray as possible. Other HD capabilities include support for HD-JPEG and JPEG photos, so you can view crisp, digital photo albums, and AVCHD video, a playback format (used on camcorders) for digital home movies.

Advanced Audio

High-definition audio complements the 1080p video content with built-in Dolby TrueHD and DTS-HD Master Audio|Essential decoding. Plus, you can use the BDX2500 to play your personal music collection (in MP3 or WMA format) on your home-theater speaker system. Additionally, the BDX2500 will stream Pandora radio stations, so you have even more listening choices. **RG**

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HOW TO BUY A Blu-ray Disc Player

Not All Players Are Alike

If you want to squeeze the best possible picture quality from your HDTV, then a BD (Blu-ray Disc) player is probably at the top of your shopping list these days. Compared to a DVD player, a BD player can deliver superior video and sound quality, but it's more than just a beefed-up DVD player. It also gives you entertainment options that DVDs couldn't. Whatever a Blu-ray player's allure for you, there are a few things to know before you buy.

Electronics Profiling

Profiles, which specify what features a unit must provide, are the most potentially confusing aspect about BD players. Here are the key distinctions of the two current profiles:

Profile 1.1. This standard replaced the original profile, 1.0, which left as optional many of the features that set Blu-ray apart from DVDs. Profile 1.1's chief benefit is a mandatory picture-in-picture feature, also known as Bonus View. This lets you view commentary tracks as a smaller window inside the movie. Some Profile 1.1 players may also have an Internet connection, usually an Ethernet port, to facilitate updating the firmware (the internal programming that runs the player and determines the features it offers).

Profile 2.0. Supposedly the final BD player standard, Profile 2.0 mandates Internet connectivity. However, this connection can also be used for BD-Live: various forms of interactive content,

including online chats geared around a new movie and downloadable media such as games and film trailers. Some models can also stream content from various movie and music services.

Sound Advice

In addition to high-definition video, BDs typically offer high-resolution soundtracks. Their audio formats, Dolby

TrueHD and DTS-HD, must be specially decoded, either in the player itself or by a home-theater receiver. If you want to play these soundtracks but your receiver can't decode them, definitely buy a BD player that can.

Ideally, you'll use an HDMI cable, which carries both high-quality video and audio signals. But if your receiver lacks an HDMI input and you have to resort to using a Component video cable, you'll have to run a separate audio line, either optical or Coaxial, to your receiver. Just be sure to select a BD player with the same digital audio jack that you'll use on your receiver.

Wild Blu Yonder

Finally, try potential choices in-store to see how well you get along with their remote controls, the front panel controls, and their on-screen menus. The right BD player for you should be as easy to use as it is enjoyable to watch. **FG**

BY BRIAN HODGE



Shopping Tips

- Know the BD player's profile. Profile 2.0 means it handles everything BDs can deliver.
- If you want high-resolution audio, be sure your player or receiver can decode Dolby TrueHD and DTS-HD soundtracks.
- If you need to run a separate digital audio cable, pick a BD player with the same type of connection as your receiver.
- Play around with a model before you buy to test its ease of use.

Three Is The Magic Number

The Technology That Makes 3DTV Possible

Last year, an HDTV was the crown jewel of a home theater. Today, it's a 3DTV that can switch between 2D and 3D content in HD resolution playing from, say, a 3D BD player. Nearly every major TV manufacturer is developing a 3DTV line, and several have already released models. Further, A/V receivers that can accept 3D signals are turning up, as is 3D content from broadcasters, including portions of the 2010 Masters Golf Tournament. Despite the considerable buzz 3DTV is generating, however, confusion about how it works remains.

In The Eyes

To understand 3DTV, consider the human eyes, which reside several inches apart and thus see objects at different angles. The brain morphs the images into one, adding a sense of depth to objects. Similarly, a 3DTV sends slightly different images to each eye. Special glasses help trick the brain into forming one image complete with the coveted third dimension. The primary 3DTV technologies now in use are passive polarization and frame sequential, otherwise known as active shutter. Passive polarization is the method 3D movies in theaters rely on. Active shutter is the technique that consumer 3DTV makers are using.

An active shutter setup includes a 3DTV, usually with a 120Hz or 240Hz



screen refresh rate, and active shutter eyeglasses that contain what is essentially an LCD in each frame. As 3D content plays, the TV continually alternates between sending one image to the right eye and then another to the left. Batteries and electronics in the glasses darken the right or left lens to block or accept the corresponding image. A wireless transmitter in the TV and receiver in the glasses synchronize the

signals, which happen so rapidly most wearers don't notice the lens' perpetual flickering. One caveat is that alternating frames essentially cut the frame rate of the media playing in half.

Polar Opposites

Unlike active shutter glasses, polarization glasses have no moving parts. Instead, each lens uses a filter that allows certain light the 3D movie emits to pass to the left or right eye. With either polarization or active shutter technology, anyone seeking to witness the 3D effect must wear respective 3D glasses. At least one pair of active shutter glasses is typically included with a 3DTV. They each cost \$150 or more separately.

3DTV Basics

- Passive polarization and frame sequential are the leading 3DTV technologies.
- Consumer 3DTV manufacturers are focusing on using frame sequential methods.
- Frame sequential technology relies on wearing active shutter 3D glasses.
- Future 3DTV technologies in development won't require wearing glasses.

The 3DTV Of Tomorrow

Despite the revolutionary changes 3DTV is bringing, the movement is still very young, and available 3D content is relatively limited. This summer, however, DirecTV plans to launch four dedicated 3D channels, including one ESPN channel. By year's end, dozens of BD movies in 3D, including possibly "Avatar," are also expected. Better, manufacturers are working on 3DTV technology that doesn't require wearing glasses to enjoy. **FG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

Simple Home-Theater Audio

Surround Sound In A Snap



An HTB, or home theater in a box, is an all-in-one home-theater system that combines everything you need to get an immersive home-theater audio experience. To help you determine if an HTB is right for you, here we take a look at what's included in an HTB and how it works.

What HTBs Include

Typically, HTBs include a 5.1-channel speaker set. The first number indicates how many speakers are in the set, while the latter signifies the subwoofer. A 5.1-channel setup includes two pairs of left and right speakers, one for the front of the room and one for the rear of the room. A center speaker is placed above or below your HDTV, and the subwoofer is placed to the left or right of your HDTV. Some HTBs have a 7.1-channel set, which includes two additional speakers that are placed on either side of the viewing area.

An HTB also includes an A/V receiver, which routes video signals to your HDTV and decodes audio signals to deliver sound to your speaker system. It also serves as a hub for your speakers, game consoles, and other home-theater components. Most HTB receivers also have an integrated DVD or BD (Blu-ray Disc) player, so you won't have to purchase one separately, and an HTB should include the cables you'll need to connect your speakers to your receiver.



Audio/Video Decoding

When an A/V receiver decodes audio, it is really receiving a specific audio format and using the data to deliver the right sounds to the correct speakers. The most common audio formats are Dolby Digital and DTS (Digital Theater

Systems), though there are newer formats, including Dolby TrueHD and DTS HD, which are used especially for audio playback for BDs.

How the audio of a TV show, DVD, or BD movie is decoded depends on the way it was mixed by the audio engineer. Usually, the front speakers distribute the music soundtrack, while the center speaker delivers dialogue. Surround speakers typically play environmental sound effects, and the subwoofer takes care of deep bass sounds, such as explosions.

HTB Highlights

- Most HTBs include a 5.1-channel surround-sound speaker set, though some feature a 7.1-channel set.
- HTBs that integrate a disc player into the A/V receiver save you from purchasing extra components.
- For Blu-ray Disc playback, your A/V receiver needs to be able to decode Dolby TrueHD and/or DTS HD formats.
- Many receivers let you connect your MP3 player via USB to listen to your favorites in surround sound.

Other Cool Features

To further enliven your home theater's audio capabilities, many HTB receivers incorporate USB connectivity so you can connect your MP3 player to it and hear your favorite tunes in full surround sound. Other receivers can connect to the Internet to stream instant content to your home theater, such as movies and music from popular services such as Netflix, Pandora, and YouTube. **PG**

BY KRIS GLASER BRAMBILA

Media Streaming PCs

Consider The Source



omputers are definitely outstanding for multimedia collecting, as they can store entire libraries' worth of music, video, and photos.

A home theater, on the other hand, is outstanding for multimedia viewing. Its comfy seats, TV, and sound system probably trump your computer room's swivel chair, 20-inch monitor, and PC speakers.

No surprise, then, that so many people are using their home networks to stream (send over a network) media files from their PCs to their home theaters for playback. Assuming that you have a suitable streaming device connected to your TV, such as a game console or media extender, and that you have a fast, reliable network in place between your computer and TV rooms, it's time to think about the characteristics of a good PC for the job.

Software

Really, software is what turns a computer into a streaming powerhouse. Virtually any desktop or notebook sold today is capable of sending files to your TV room, as long as it has the right programs installed.

First, you'll need streaming software, which comes with certain operating systems and application suites as well as in standalone form. The software will index the media files on your computer's hard drive and make them available to the streaming device in your home theater (and possibly your



HP MediaSmart
Server EX495
\$699.99

smartphone or remote PC, too). Thus, it needs to not only support the game console or media extender, but also the types of video, audio, playlists, and photos on your PC.

Invariably, your streaming application will work with some of your files' formats, but not all of them. In this case, you may be able to run a second streaming app that can handle the rest. Alternatively, you can use a file conversion utility to transcode copies of those problem files into formats your streaming software understands.

Hard Drive Space

Media files take up a lot of storage space, so a 1TB or bigger hard drive is a must. This is especially true if your spouse starts to convert your family's home movies to files on the drive instead of DVDs. Unused drive bays and USB and eSATA ports let you add more storage later.

LAN Port

This port lets you use an Ethernet (1Gbps or 100Mbps) or powerline wired network, which are more reliable and often faster than a wireless LAN. Wi-Fi may be OK for music and low-resolution video, however.

System Specs

You will get the smoothest video streaming results from a PC with a stout dual-core or better processor, 2GB of RAM or more, and a current graphics card that can accelerate HD video. **FG**

BY MARTY SEMS

Items In The Stream

- Streaming software is key.
- A 1 to 2TB hard drive is big enough for most audio-visual collections.
- A 1Gbps Ethernet port is the most trouble-free way to stream high-def video.
- A dual-core CPU, adequate RAM, and a recent graphics card can improve your video streaming.

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Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

PROJECTORS

Q What's the advantage of a home-theater projector?

A You can adjust the projected image size to be larger than any HDTV screen, and you can roll up the projector screen when it's not in use.

Q What are XGA, WXGA, SVGA, and WSVGA?

A These express a projector's resolution: XGA (Extended Graphics Array; 1024 x 768), WXGA (Widescreen XGA; 1280 x 800), SVGA (Super Video Graphics Array; 800 x 600), and WSVGA (Widescreen SVGA; 1024 x 600). Depending on the manufacturer, resolutions may vary.

Q What is resolution?

A The number of horizontal by vertical pixels (picture elements) a projector can display. The greater the resolution, the more detail the video can show.

Q What's the difference between native and maximum resolution?

A The native resolution describes the limits of the projector's display. Some units have higher maximum resolutions, meaning that they can downconvert more detailed video to their native resolutions.

Q What are ANSI lumens?

A These are units of brightness standardized by the American National Standards Institute. The more lumens a projector can display, the brighter its picture. Some vendors provide lumen figures for both white and color images.

Q What is contrast ratio?

A This expresses the difference between a projector's darkest and lightest colors (black and white) under test conditions. Generally speaking, the higher the number, the richer dark details can be.

Q What is throw ratio?

A A throw ratio, such as 2:1, describes how far away from the screen the projector has to sit in order to produce a projected picture of a certain horizontal (or sometimes diagonal) width, such as to fit your screen.

Q What are DLP and DMD?

A Digital Light Processing and Digital Micromirror Device are two names for the same display technology. A lamp shines through a spinning color wheel and reflects off tiny moving mirrors.

Q What are LCD and 3LCD?

A These display technologies use one or three liquid-crystal displays to allow light to pass through color apertures or to block it for dark parts of a picture.

Q What are LCoS and D-ILA?

A Liquid crystal on silicon and JVC's Direct-Drive Image Light Amplification are similar to DLP, but they reflect lamp light off a chip with an LCD layer instead of micromirrors.



Yes, You Need To Calibrate

Get Optimal HDTV Video Results

The HDTV is the center of attention in any home-theater setup. To ensure that it is providing the best video results, consider a professional HDTV calibration.

Your Video May Not Be All That It Seems

While every HDTV owner is unique, the display settings on an HDTV may not be. If you want to ensure lifelike image quality for your HDTV, you'll need a professional to perform a calibration.

- Most TVs are shipped with a set standard video mode meant for an electronics store display—this means that the TV's settings are adjusted to show the best picture in a bright, fluorescent-lit environment. Because it's unlikely your lighting at home matches the store's surroundings, you should have your TV professionally calibrated by an ISF (Imaging Science Foundation)-certified specialist to

accommodate your home's unique lighting environment.

- An HDTV's viewing angle and your home-theater setup also affect how your HDTV should be calibrated. An ISF-certified professional takes these factors into account when making adjustments.
- Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your television for a professional calibration, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come.

Why A Professional Calibration?

Instead of taking a chance with your HDTV investment, rely on professionals to handle the work for you.

- Calibration specialists are ISF-certified, which means they are trained to use highly specialized and expensive equipment to calibrate HDTVs correctly.
- A calibration DVD might be a tempting alternative, but it won't let you adjust all of your HDTV's settings. An ISF-certified professional can access advanced service menus to calibrate your TV correctly. These settings aren't

meant to be experimented with, so if you poke around and gain access to your TV's service menu, it's best to leave it alone. Many people have rendered their TVs useless because they didn't know which settings they were changing.

- Calibration DVDs only adjust video settings for your HDTV's DVD input. This means when you're watching video from a source other than a DVD, your picture won't be calibrated. A professional calibration takes care of two source inputs, such as your DVD player and cable box inputs.

What You Can Expect

An in-home calibration service will typically last about two hours and includes the following:

- A professional will use color analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible, letting you see video exactly the same way it looked when it was created.
- Your HDTV's contrast will be set up to provide greater video detail as well as the darkest blacks and brightest whites.
- No matter which calibrated source input you are using, you will enjoy the best image clarity and sharpness that your HDTV can provide. **EG**





HDTV Glossary

B alderdash! OK, HDTV jargon isn't *that* bad, but there are a few terms every shopper should know. Here's your cheat sheet.

aspect ratio—Put simply, it's the shape of the TV's screen. An HDTV has a wider picture than a traditional TV of the same vertical screen height. An HDTV has a 16:9 aspect ratio, meaning that if its screen were 16 inches wide, it would be 9 inches tall. A regular 4:3 TV screen would be 12 inches wide at the same 9-inch height.

HDMI—High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a type of cable connection that carries both high-resolution video and uncompressed multichannel audio between HDTVs, home-theater receivers, and other components. HDMI cables maintain top picture and sound quality.

HD tuner—Some more expensive HDTVs include a built-in tuner for receiving local high-def broadcast TV channels. Your TV doesn't need an HD tuner if you have cable or satellite service. Separate HD tuners and antennas are available for HDTVs without them.

interlaced—When an HDTV displays an interlaced image, as in 1080i or 480i resolutions, it really shows you every other horizontal line of a frame of video (called a field) at a time. Sixty times a second, the TV displays the other field of the frame, meaning the lines not shown in the previous field. Interlaced video can appear to flicker or might cause moving objects on-screen to have blurred edges.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—Like a notebook's screen, an LCD HDTV uses a fluid crystal substance to form pixels of color in front of a backlight. LCDs may not be able to match plasma TVs' deep black and gray areas, but they're lighter, sometimes less fragile, and considered easier to set up. These work better in brighter rooms or if you will be playing unchanging images on the screen for an extended period of time.

plasma—Plasma TVs use a tiny tube of gas for each pixel. Electricity makes each pixel glow. Plasmas create deeper blacks and sometimes brighter colors than LCDs and have better contrast. These also offer slightly better viewing angles. However, older or less expensive models can also suffer permanent screen damage if an unchanging image

is displayed too long, such as a TV channel's stock ticker or parts of certain video games.

progressive scan—A TV showing a progressively scanned image, as in 1080p or 720p resolutions, displays a full frame of video (both odd-lined and even-lined fields) all at once. Progressive-scan video looks sharper and doesn't flicker like interlaced images can.

projection—Some large-screen HDTVs offer lower-priced alternatives to LCDs or plasmas by using projection technologies. These technologies vary, but all projection TVs throw light on a screen from the front or rear. This means they are bulkier than plasmas or LCDs, but some rear-projection sets have stellar picture quality.

viewing angle—No matter where you sit in front of an HDTV with a wide viewing angle, such as 170 degrees, its picture should look reasonably good. Test this before you buy.

widescreen—A TV or monitor that's wider horizontally in relation to its vertical height. HDTVs typically have a 16:9 aspect ratio rather than an older 4:3 display. **PG**

HDTVs

Screen Technology Differences



LCD (liquid-crystal display)

LCDs can use one of two backlight technologies. CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps) are the most common, but LEDs are the latest backlight technology to hit the LCD scene. (See the “LED” section for more info on LED TVs.)

Pros

- The thin profiles and light weight of LCDs make them easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRT televisions.

Cons

- Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer effect, but with improved

LCD technology, the effect is barely perceptible.

- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black, which can be distracting on-screen.
- From certain viewing angles, LCDs will lose video contrast and color.
- LCDs with CCFL backlighting suffer from leaking light, and unlike LEDs, they can't dim certain areas on-screen. This may result in blacks and whites that appear to be more gray in color.

Best For

- Streaming PC content
- Bright, sunny rooms

LED (light-emitting diode)

LED TVs are actually a type of LCD TV. These sets use one of two LED backlight technologies:

- Full-array lighting places LEDs behind the screen in a grid pattern, letting the TV dim certain LEDs for the best contrast ratios available.
- Edge-lit sets have LEDs placed around the frame of the TV, and light is directed toward the center of the screen. Edge-lit models cost less than full-array sets and are a lot thinner.

Pros

- By using LEDs, these sets use a lot less electricity than other HDTVs, and

they don't contain harmful mercury.

- Overall, LED TVs are one-third thinner than other LCD TVs and have longer life spans.
- Plasmas are well-known for their deep blacks and crisp whites and fast response times, but LED TVs closely match in performance.

Cons

- These sets are costly because they feature a relatively new technology.
- Blooming, or a halo effect, may encircle bright images that are on dark backgrounds.

Best For

- Eco-conscious viewers
- Fast-paced gaming

Plasma

Pros

- A plasma TV's phosphors light up evenly across the screen to create images, which are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high, so you'll see some of the darkest blacks and brightest whites.

- The design and technology of plasma TVs lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 50 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry motion.
- Wide viewing angles give you the same high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you happen to be sitting.

Cons

- Some plasmas are susceptible to image burn-in if not cared for properly.
- Low air pressure and high altitudes may cause plasmas to buzz.
- Some plasmas have highly reflective glass, which isn't ideal in sunny settings.

Best For

- Large groups that watch TV together
- Movies or sports with nonstop action

RPTV (rear-projection TV)

Pros

- RPTVs are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (65 inches and larger).

- As screens get bigger, RPTVs tend to be more cost-effective than an LCD, LED, or plasma TV.

Cons

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.









- RPTVs require lamp replacements every few years.

Best For

- Anyone who wants to bring a cinematic experience home
- Big, roomy home theaters

Should You Get An LCD Or LED-LCD TV?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. LCDs use different kinds of lights to project an image onto the screen. A traditional LCD uses CCFLs or EEFLs whereas new LED-LCDs use LEDs.

		Light projection	Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs & Outputs	Refresh rate**
	What It Means	How images are projected on-screen; Type of backlight an LED-LCD uses	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; Images are best displayed in this	The angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect devices; Outputs transfer information to peripherals	Speed at which a screen is re-drawn every second
	Insignia NS-L46Q120-10A MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9554519	CCFL	46 inches	31x44.3x12.3 inches; 44.1 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 S-Video, 2 Component, 2 Composite, 1 PC; 1 audio output	120Hz
	Panasonic VIERA TC-L42U25 MSRP: \$899.95* SKU 9783658	EEFL	42 inches	25.1x40.2x4.2 inches; 39.7 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	3 HDMI, 1 Component, 2 Composite, 1 PC; 1 audio output	120Hz
	LG LD520 MSRP: \$1,900* SKU 9797709	CCFL	55 inches	32.9x53.4x4.3 inches; 72.5 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	3 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 Composite, 1 USB; 2 audio outputs	120Hz
	Mitsubishi LT-46249 MSRP: \$2,799* SKU 9427211	CCFL	46 inches	28x42x3 inches; 68.6 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 3 Composite, 3 Component; 2 audio outputs	120Hz
	Insignia NS-40E560A11 MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9688972	LED	40 inches	25x38.9x1.5 inches; 34.2 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 Composite; 2 audio outputs	120Hz
	Sharp LC-52LE810UN MSRP: \$2,299.99* SKU 9730536	LED (edge-lit)	52 inches	32x49.6x1.6 inches; 52.9 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	4 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 Ethernet, 2 USB; 2 audio outputs	120Hz
	Samsung UN55C6300SF MSRP: \$2,499.99* SKU 9790851	LED (edge-lit)	55 inches	50.5x30.2x1.18 inches; N/A	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 Ethernet, 2 USB; 2 audio outputs	120Hz
	Sony BRAVIA KDL60EX700 MSRP: \$2,999.99* SKU 9763394	LED (edge-lit)	60 inches	34.6x56.4x2.6 inches; 60.2 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 USB, 1 Ethernet; 1 audio output	120Hz

LED-LCD









See p. 19

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.
***Unless specified, this is without stand

** Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges. For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.

Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning on buying a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

		Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate**
	What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers	Speed at which a screen is re-drawn every second
	Panasonic TC-P42C2 MSRP: \$599.95* SKU 9770484	42 inches	26.1x40.6x3.7 inches; 52.9 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 2 Composite, 2 Component	1 audio	600Hz
	Samsung PN42C450 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9791253	42 inches	24.8x40.6x2.7 inches; 38.6 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite, 1 PC	N/A	600Hz
	Samsung PN50C450 MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 9789725	50 inches	28.5x47.37 x11.25 inches; 51.8 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI, n/a Component, n/a Composite, n/a PC	N/A	600Hz
	Panasonic TC-P42U2 MSRP: \$799.95* SKU 9761059	42 inches	26.1x40.6x3.7 inches; 49.6 pounds	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI, 2 Component, 2 Composite	1 audio	600Hz
	Panasonic TC-P50G20 MSRP: \$1,499.95* SKU 9788953	50 inches	30.3x48x3.5 inches; 57.3 pounds	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI, 2 Composite, 2 Component, 1 PC	1 audio	600Hz
	Samsung PN50C7000 MSRP: \$1,999.99* SKU 9809723	50 inches	29.5x47.7x1.4 inches; 54 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite, 1 PC, 1 USB	N/A	600Hz
	Samsung PN58B860 MSRP: \$3,199.99* SKU 9300687	58 inches	33.6x56x1.4 inches; 81.3 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite, 1 PC, 2 USB	N/A	600Hz
	Panasonic VIERA TC-P65V10 MSRP: \$3,999.95* SKU 9396496	65 inches	38x61.9x3.9 inches; 134.5 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 2 Composite, 1 S-Video, 1 PC	2 audio	600Hz

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

***Unless specified, this is without stand

** Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges. For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.



LED-LCD TV

Sharp's New Quattron With Quad Pixel Technology

Sharp AQUOS LE810
LED-LCD TVs

MAP: 60-inch model \$2,999.99
SKU: 9730545

MAP: 52-inch model \$2,299.99
SKU: 9730536

MAP: 46-inch model \$1,899.99
SKU: 9730554

MAP: 40-inch model \$1,599.99
SKU: 9742346

www.sharppusa.com

Quick Overview

The Quattron LE810 Series, in screen sizes of 60", 52", 46", and 40", employs Sharp's proprietary quad pixel technology, which enables the TVs to display many colors that have never been seen on a TV before. By splitting each pixel into four sub-components (Red, Green, Blue, and the new YELLOW), golds and yellows are deeper and more vivid than ever before.

Perfect For

Large-screen TV buyers who are looking for the best picture quality and an ultra-sleek edge-light design.

Outstanding Benefits

- **Quad pixel** 4-Color technology enables new colors to be displayed
- New contemporary **edge-light LED** design with depth about 1.5"
- Fully featured with **4 HDMI** inputs compliant with version 1.4
- Full HD 1080p with 120Hz Fine Motion Enhanced for fine detail
- AQUOS Net provides **Netflix** and other Web-based services
- Meets the latest **Energy Star 5.0** power requirements
- PC input, USB input for playing still-image slideshows and music
- **X-Gen** LCD panel allows more light through for very high brightness
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio of **4,000,000:1**

Coolest Feature

Quad pixel technology enables more colors to be viewed than ever before, including more vivid golds and yellows.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

As you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories. There are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. The following is a rundown of the accessories we recommend to complete your home-theater setup. **FC**



WALL MOUNTS & BRACKETS

- View your HDTV from the best possible angle
- Adjust your TV's position by tilting it up or down as needed
- Maximize space in your viewing room by hanging up your TV



CLEANING KIT

- Protect your HDTV's screen by using specially formulated sprays and cloths while cleaning it
- Eliminate the danger of scratching delicate screens
- No-drip formulas prevent damage to other home-theater equipment



CORD-CONCEALMENT KIT

- Hide multiple cords while keeping them organized
- Minimize cord clutter, especially with wall-mounted sets
- Keep the focus on your new HDTV, not the cords connected to it



TV STANDS

- Offer flexibility if you're unable to mount your HDTV on the wall
- Available in a variety of finishes to match any décor
- Provide a place for additional home-theater equipment

HDMI CABLES



- Carry uncompressed digital audio and video signals to and from your HDTV and its components
- Eliminate interference from other components with shielding (found in higher-end models)



UNIVERSAL REMOTE CONTROL

- Simplify your home-theater setup with one remote that can control all of your components
- Program different functions so that you will be able to watch a movie by pressing just one button, for example
- Easily view options in the dark with a backlit LCD



SURROUND-SOUND SYSTEM

- Maximize your HDTV experience with theater-like audio
- Feel like you're in the movie scene instead of just watching it
- Even out softer and louder programming with an equalizer



SURGE PROTECTORS/POWER CONDITIONERS

- Protect your home theater from potential damage by using a surge protector that will absorb electrical fluctuations
- Filter out "dirty power" (also known as electrical "noise" or radio interference) that can degrade your home theater's audio and video with a power conditioner
- Have peace of mind knowing that your home theater will give you its peak performance for the longest amount of time



HOME-THEATER SERVICES

A home theater is a pretty big investment, so it's wise to consider letting a professional handle your installation and setup. Let your local CE retailer tackle the following tasks, and you'll be able to enjoy the full glory of HD in no time.

- Home Theater In-Home Consultation
- TV Recycling
- TV Calibration
- TV Mounting & Cord Concealment
- Remote Control Programming
- Speaker Setup

Nikon Digital Cameras

Give Mom The Gift Of Memories

No matter her level of photography, Nikon (www.nikonusa.com) has the perfect digital camera to give Mom for Mother's Day. With a new digital camera from Nikon, she can capture each and every special moment in stunning detail and clarity, making it the most memorable gift of all.



Nikon COOLPIX S4000



The pocket-sized 12MP Nikon COOLPIX S4000 (\$199.95) features a 4X optical zoom that Mom can use to capture images of her daughter performing her lines at the school play. The S4000's 3-inch LCD touch-screen not only helps Mom frame the perfect shot of her daughter and review each picture instantly, but it also features retouch options, so she can easily enhance her favorites and even add personalized drawings. The S4000 also has a movie mode, so Mom can capture her daughter's theatrical monologue in HD video with sound. And during fast-moving action scenes, she can use Nikon's Best Shot Selector, which snaps 10 shots when the shutter is pressed and automatically saves the sharpest one.

Nikon D3000



Nikon's D3000 D-SLR camera (\$549.95) is perfect for moms looking to add artistic flair to their family's scrapbook photos. The 10.2MP D3000 Kit comes with a 3X 18-55mm Zoom-NIKKOR lens, so each shot Mom takes will have vivid color, sharp contrast, and crisp detail. Even if Mom is a novice photographer, the camera's scene modes, such as Portrait, Sports, or Night Portrait, can help her achieve the best shot in any situation by selecting the optimal camera settings. To be sure each shot is exactly what she wants to include in her scrapbook, she can also review every picture on the 3-inch LCD monitor and make enhancements, such as removing red-eye and cropping, directly on the screen.

Nikon D5000



The D5000 D-SLR from Nikon (\$629.95) has 12.3MP and an 11-point autofocus system, giving Mom the ability to capture life's moments in sharp, ultra-detailed images. With continuous shooting up to 4fps, she can capture fast action and precise moments perfectly. The 2.7-inch vari-angle LCD features Live View, enabling Mom to use the screen to frame each shot, and it can be flipped and turned to achieve fresh picture-taking perspectives. Plus, Nikon's D-Movie mode can record video in 720p, letting her share movies in HD clarity. With a blend of simplicity and advanced D-SLR camera capabilities, the D5000 allows Mom to snap sharp and detailed images and opens up new creative opportunities.

The Best Gift

There's no better gift for Mom this Mother's Day than sharp, detailed memories, which she can easily capture with one of Nikon's COOLPIX or D-SLR digital cameras.



FirstGlimpse

HOW TO BUY _____ A Travel-Friendly Camera

Features You Can't Leave Home Without

What makes a gadget good for traveling? Typically, there are multiple features you should take into consideration when you're shop-

ping for a travel-friendly camera. Think about how you want to travel with your camera and whether you'd prefer advanced features over a light load. Then, use our purchasing guide to find the right camera to match your travel lifestyle.

Size & Weight

To determine what type of camera body style and weight are right for your travels, decide if you prefer to carry your camera in a case, around your neck, or simply slip it into your shirt or jacket pocket. Many point-and-shoot cameras are light and slim enough to carry with you without weighing you down, which means you could take one on a hike up a challenging mountain and snap a landscape image from the peak. A weightier D-SLR will require a neck strap and case to protect it from bumps during travel, but it will give you more creative control over your pictures once you reach your destination.

Antishake Features

If you're an amateur photographer who spontaneously stops to take photos in a

windy locale, you'll want to invest in a camera with antishake technology. This counteracts any blurred photos that could result from a shaky hand combined with a slow shutter speed when you take the photo.

Waterproof & Freezeproof

If you're traveling anywhere outdoors with a camera, you can risk exposing it to harmful elements, such as water and

cold temperatures. To neutralize these threats, you can purchase a point-and-shoot camera with waterproof and freezeproof features, such as those available from Olympus on page 24. Waterproof cameras are designed with built-in gaskets and seals that protect the interior and exterior of the camera body—you can even dunk certain models underwater to take a photo of your son at his swimming lesson. The freezeproof feature can operate at below-freezing temperatures, allowing you to take snowy snapshots of your children sledding.

Video Features

Many camera models support a video mode, which lets you capture video clips, some even in HD. This feature would be beneficial when you're traveling with your young daughter for the first time. Or, maybe you'd prefer to remember the first time you took your kids to the zoo—getting it on video will capture that memorable moment, so you'll be able to live it again. **IFG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD



Digital Roadtrippin'

- Consider what size camera you're willing to carry while traveling and whether you're OK with taking a case.
- Antishake technology will help counteract camera movement to prevent blurry images.
- When you're out in the rain or cold, you can use a waterproof or freezeproof camera to take photos without damaging your camera.

FirstGlimpse

Be Social With Photos & Video

Digital Devices That Make Web Sharing Easy



Media-sharing sites let us share photos and video of the special events and people in our lives. Because they have become so intertwined with our online habits, many camera and camcorder manufacturers are incorporating features to make sharing digital media easier.

Easy Uploads

Some camera or camcorder makers provide software that lets you upload your files to a sharing site. So, when you return from your sister's birthday bash or your cousin's graduation, you can simply transfer the photos from your camera to the program and then select the images you want to upload to your account.

With the popularity of video-sharing site YouTube, some point-and-shoot cameras, such as the Fujifilm Z70 (\$149.95; www.bestbuy.com/fuji) on page 34, include a YouTube mode that lets you capture videos in an aspect ratio and file format that can be easily uploaded. So,

after you've shot the footage from your class reunion, you only need to connect your camera to your computer to immediately share your clips on YouTube.

Editing Features

Built-in editing options are another way that cameras and camcorders make it less time-consuming to upload digital media to the Web. With cameras and

camcorders that offer built-in editing features, you can adjust the aspect ratio, contrast, color, and brightness, and even crop an image to make a perfect profile picture. Additionally, a device with built-in editing features lets you edit your images and video on the car ride or plane ride home from your summer vacation, so you won't have to upload untouched photos, saving you time later on.

Because tagging people in photos and video can be a lengthy process, some devices include file-tagging capabilities. If you have some downtime but don't have access to a computer, you can use your camera to tag the files so they include all the necessary information.

Quick & Easy

If you enjoy sharing your digital media with friends and family through media-sharing sites, then you can benefit from a device designed to do so. It will cut down the time it takes to upload photos and video to your accounts, so all your photo subjects can put their best faces forward. **PG**

BY TESSA WARNER BRENNEMAN

Sharing Made Easy

- Some proprietary software lets you upload photos directly to your social networking account.
- Devices that capture images and video in the format required by media-sharing sites make it quicker and easier to upload files to your accounts later.
- The ability to edit and tag media on your device lets you get by without a connection to a computer, making the process more flexible and convenient.

OLYMPUS®

Makes Way For Spring

Five Different Styles For Your Photography



lympus (www.getolympus.com) offers a powerful yet simple line of cameras just in time to match all of the blossoming colors of spring. Whether you're looking for a model that functions as both a camera and video recorder or a compact model that can withstand the unpredictable seasonal weather, you'll find five user-friendly selections from Olympus that can satisfy both advanced and novice photographers.

OLYMPUS PEN E-PL1

\$599.99 • SKU: 9769158 (black)

Product Highlights: A 12.3MP Live MOS image sensor that's eight times larger than the average point-and-shoot camera and produces true-to-life colors • Direct Button for instant HD video recording • Live Guide lets you make adjustments, such as boosting or decreasing your subject's contrast or making colors more vivid or muted, before you snap your shot • Six in-camera Art Filters, including Pop Art, Soft Focus, Pin Hole, Grainy Film, and Diorama • In-body image stabilization

Perfect For: A photographer who wants to easily manipulate camera settings without making manual adjustments.



OLYMPUS FE-4030

\$149.99 • SKUs: 9765198 (gray), 9766479 (white), 9766521 (pink)

Product Highlights: 14MP • 4X optical zoom for close-up shots • Digital Image Stabilization Plus • AF Tracking lets you take accurate pictures of fast-moving subjects • Intelligent Auto Shooting Mode automatically identifies and optimally adjusts the camera settings to capture shots • Advanced Face Detection focuses on up to 16 faces to deliver sharp photo results

Perfect For: The point-and-shoot photographer who wants plenty of fun and easy-to-use settings to create unique pictures.



OLYMPUS STYLUS TOUGH-6020

\$299.99 • SKUs: 9765213 (black), 9775037 (blue), 9774893 (green), 9775028 (pink)

Product Highlights: 14MP • Waterproof up to 16 feet • Shockproof feature can handle up to 5-foot drops • Freezeproof down to 14 degrees Fahrenheit • One-touch 720p HD video button • Tap control on the top, back, and sides of the camera activates picture playback, flash mode, and more

Perfect For: Outdoor enthusiasts who need a camera that can hold up to the conditions.



OLYMPUS STYLUS-7030

\$199.99 • SKU: 9765204 (silver)

Product Highlights: 14MP • 7X wide-angle zoom • Dual Image Stabilization • AF Tracking lets you take accurate pictures of fast-moving subjects • Creative Art Filters with in-camera effects such as Pop, Art, Pinhole, Fisheye, and Drawing • Shadow Adjustment Technology pulls out subject details that can be lost in poorly lit settings

Perfect For: Those who want a small and compact camera packed with creative features and a big zoom.



OLYMPUS STYLUS TOUGH-8010

\$399.99 • SKUs: 9765231 (black), 9765329 (silver), 9765222 (blue)

Product Highlights: 14MP • Waterproof up to 33 feet • Shock-absorbing construction is designed to endure a 6.6-foot drop • Freezeproof down to 14 degrees Fahrenheit • Crushproof up to 220 pounds of pressure • One-touch 720p HD video button

Perfect For: The nature-inspired photographer who desires to travel with a camera in any environment.





Choosing Photo Paper

From The Darkroom To The Computer Room

Today's photo printers can churn out pictures that look as though they were developed at a professional photo processing center for mere pennies per print. Unfortunately, many people don't get the most out of their photo printers because they run standard copier paper through them, missing out on all of the benefits provided by true photo paper.

Photo paper uses special coatings that absorb ink, making sure it doesn't spread out and mingle with other colors. The coatings also let ink dry more quickly, so it doesn't smear when you pull pictures out of the printer, and help your printouts last longer by preventing fading. Read on for tips on buying the photo paper best for your printer and images.

Match The Manufacturer

Purchasing paper from the same manufacturer as your printer is one of the best ways to ensure your snapshots look sharp and the colors are as vibrant as possible. Printer manufacturers extensively test their photo inks and toners so that they work consistently with their specific type of paper.

Another benefit of buying paper from your printer manufacturer is it will be the right size for your model. This is especially important when you're creating borderless prints, which are photos with no white edges that are similar to the ones you'd get from the photo processing center.

Finally, make sure any paper you buy is labeled for your printer type, as inkjets and color laser printers use different technologies to create prints and therefore work best with specific types of paper.

Different Paper For Different Printouts

After you've found photo paper that works best with your printer and ink,

you have a variety of paper formats to choose from. Some standard sizes are 4x6 for photo albums, 5x7 for smaller framed prints, and 8x10 for larger framed prints. These sizes are precut, and you can also get perforated sheets for printing wallet-sized pictures that make it economical to share prints with lots of people. You might also find 8.5x11 sheets of paper that you can use to print out many photos on the same sheet.

Your photo paper's finish is also important to consider. For photos you might put in an album, a glossy or semi-gloss finish is nice for making colors pop. But a nonreflective matte finish often works better for photos you intend to frame, as you don't want to add to the glare already produced by the glass.

Final Thoughts

To make photo printing easier, look for special touches that paper manufacturers include to ensure you don't make mistakes. Some photo paper will have a watermark on the back side, which will prevent you from accidentally loading and printing on the paper upside down. **FG**

Know Your Photo Paper

- Buy paper from your printer's manufacturer.
- Glossy works great for photo albums.
- Matte is best for photos you'll frame.

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

PHOTO-EDITING SOFTWARE

Q What are the benefits of using photo-editing software?

A Photo-editing software can help you salvage photos that you thought weren't worth saving, such as when a photo is too dark or has poor framing. You can also add effects to your favorite pictures.

Q What photo-editing techniques can I use to improve my photos?

A Red-eye removal, cropping, and adjusting the brightness and contrast of a photo are the most common editing techniques found in photo-editing software.

Q What is red-eye removal?

A Sometimes your camera's flash may cause your photo subjects to have red eyes. Photo-editing software can help you manually or automatically correct eyes that appear red so that they look more natural.

Q What is cropping?

A When your photos are off-center or contain distracting elements you don't want to see, such as a bystander's shoulder, you can use the crop feature to reframe them.

Q What does adjusting a photo's brightness and contrast do?

A If your photos come out too dark, you can adjust the brightness of a photo, which will make it lighter or darker as a whole. Or, changing the contrast will affect the intensity of the lightest and darkest areas in a picture.

Q Is photo-editing software difficult to use?

A Most photo-editing software has an intuitive interface that's easy to learn, but for more complicated tasks, such as removing the background from a photo or colorizing specific areas, you can always take advantage of the software's built-in tutorials or online help guide.

Q Can photo-editing software instantly fix a photo with only one mouse click?

A Many photo-editing programs have an automatic correction feature that can adjust and balance the brightness, contrast, and color in a photo with a single click of a mouse.

Q Can photo-editing software help me archive and back up my photo collection?

A Yes. Once you're finished editing your pictures, you can back them up by burning them to a CD or DVD using a photo-editing program's built-in tools.

Q Can I use photo-editing software to publish my favorite pictures to the Web?

A Yes. Many photo-editing programs let you upload pictures to popular sharing sites such as Flickr, Facebook, and Picasa directly from a software menu.









Q Can I create projects with photo-editing software?

A Yes. Most photo-editing software lets you use your favorite pictures to create projects, such as photo books, calendars, slideshows, cards, posters, and more.



Which Point-&-Shoot Camera Is Best For You?





If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras, and we also explain what these features mean.

		Resolution; Optical zoom	Shutter speed	Memory card	LCD size	Battery life	ISO	Movie mode
	What It Means	More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject	A faster shutter speed will let you snap action photos without blur	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the screen on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings	Lets you record short video clips on your digital camera
	Casio EXILIM EX-Z35 MSRP: \$109.99* SKU 9848181	12.1MP; 3X	1/2 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.5 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Insignia NS-DSC1112SL MSRP: \$119* SKU N/A	12MP; 4X	1 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 50, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Fujifilm FinePix Z70 MSRP: \$149.95* SKU 9766737	12.2MP; 5X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Nikon Coolpix S4000 MSRP: \$199.95* SKU 9758647	12MP; 4X	1 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	3 inches	190 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	Fujifilm FinePix JZ300 MSRP: \$199.95* SKU 9789024	12.1MP; 10X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	Sony Cyber-shot W370 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9757839	14.1MP; 7X	2 to 1/1,600 seconds	Memory Stick Duo/PRO/SD/SDHC	3 inches	230 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	Canon PowerShot SD1400 IS ELPH MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 9766919	14.1MP; 4X	1 to 1/1,500 second	SD/SDHC/SDXC/MMC/MMC Plus/HC MMC Plus	2.7 inches	230 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Olympus Stylus TOUGH-6020 MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9765213	14MP; 5X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	200 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which D-SLR Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs of select D-SLR cameras.

		Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
	What It Means	Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measure of the screen on the back of the camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action
	Sony Alpha A230L MSRP: \$449.99* SKU 9342473	10.2MP	2.7 inches	100 to 3200	18-55mm	2.5fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Nikon D3000 MSRP: \$549.95* SKU 9456803	10.2MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	3fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Olympus PEN E-PL1 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9769158	12.3MP	2.7 inches	200 to 3200	14-42mm f/3.5-5.6	3fps	60 to 1/2,000 seconds
	Pentax K-X MSRP: \$649.95* SKU 9555787	12.4MP	2.7 inches	200 to 6400	18-55mm	4.7fps	30 to 1/6,000 seconds
	Olympus E-P1 MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9463573	12.3MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	14-42mm f/3.5-5.6	3fps	60 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Canon EOS Rebel T2i MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 9778635	18MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	3.7fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Pentax K-7 MSRP: \$1,099.95* SKU 9412165	14.6MP	3 inches	100 to 3200	N/A (body only)	5.2fps	30 to 1/8,000 seconds
	Canon EOS 7D MSRP: \$1,699* SKU 9491944	18MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	N/A (body only)	8fps	30 to 1/8,000 seconds

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, flash drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders, you can determine which recording format and product best fit your style.





		LCD size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution
	What It Means	Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular cam- corder can uti- lize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not in- cluded unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal resolution; the higher the num- ber, the greater the detail
High-Definition	Flash Drive						
	 JVC Everio GZ-MS230 MSRP: \$269.95* SKU 9731192	2.7 inches	39X; 800X	Ultra/Fine/ Norm/Eco	SD/SDHC	0.3MP	480
	 Canon FS300 MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9739361	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	XP/SP/LP	SD	0.45MP	480
	 Insignia NS-DV11080F MSRP: \$349* SKU 9769398	3 inches	12X; 10X	N/A	SD/SDHC	N/A	1,080
	 Samsung HMX-H200BN MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9751926	2.7 inches	20X; 220X	N/A	SD/SDHC	4.7MP	1,080
	 Canon VIXIA HF R11 MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 9751699	2.7 inches	20X; 400X	FXP/XP+/ SP/LP	SD/SDHC	1.73MP	1,080
Hard Drive	 Sony Handycam HDR-CX550V MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9770888	3.5 inches	10X; 120X	FX/FH/HQ/ LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo/SD/ SDHC	12MP	1,080
	 Sony Handycam HDR-XR350V MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9770779	2.7 inches	12X; 160X	FX/FH/HQ/ LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo/SD/ SDHC	7MP	1,080
	 Panasonic SDR-H85 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9771031	2.7 inches	70X; 3,500X	XP/SP/LP/ LXP/LSP	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	0.3MP	480

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Choose The Right Canon Camcorder

Canon digital camcorders have the innovation you need and the reliability you want in delivering superior image quality and performance. Featuring Genuine Canon Optics and Canon's advanced proprietary video technologies, Canon's lineup includes high-definition and standard-definition camcorders to meet different lifestyle needs.



Product Name SKU	VIXIA HF S20 97751826	VIXIA HF M31 9751917	VIXIA HF M30 9751908	VIXIA HF R10 9748298 (silver) 9750414 (red) 9751089 (black)	FS30 9739421	FS300 9739361 (silver) 9739343 (red) 9739403 (blue)
						
MSRP	\$1,099.99*	\$799.99*	\$699.99*	\$549.99*	\$329.99*	\$299.99*
Format	AVCHD (up to 24Mbps)	AVCHD (up to 24Mbps)	AVCHD (up to 24Mbps)	AVCHD (up to 17Mbps)	MPEG-2 (SD video)	MPEG-2 (SD video)
Recording Media	Flash memory	Flash memory	Flash memory	Flash memory	Flash memory	Flash memory
Internal Storage	32GB	32GB	8GB	8GB	8GB	n/a
Memory Card Compatibility	Two SD/SDHC slots	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC
Image Sensor	1/2.6-inch CMOS	1/4-inch CMOS	1/4-inch CMOS	1/5.5-inch CMOS	1/6-inch CCD	1/6-inch CCD
Full HD 1920 x 1080 Movie Recording	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Image Processor	DIGIC DV III	DIGIC DV III	DIGIC DV III	DIGIC DV III	DIGIC DV II	DIGIC DV II
Image Stabilizer	Dynamic SuperRange OIS with Powered IS	Dynamic SuperRange OIS with Powered IS	Dynamic SuperRange OIS with Powered IS	Dynamic Image Stabilization	Dynamic Image Stabilization	Dynamic Image Stabilization
Optical & Digital Zoom	10x/200x	15x/300x	15x/300x	20x/400x	37x/2000x	37x/2000x
Advanced Zoom	n/a	18x (video only)	18x (video only)	n/a	41x	41x
5.1-Channel Surround Sound	Yes (optional SM-V1 required)	Yes (optional SM-V1 required)	Yes (optional SM-V1 required)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Instant Auto Focus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Face Detection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Touch & Track	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
Smart Auto	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
HD-to-SD Downconversion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
LCD Screen	3.5-inch high-resolu- tion widescreen; approx. 922K dots	2.7-inch wide- screen; approx. 211K dots	2.7-inch wide-screen; approx. 211K dots	2.7-inch wide-screen; approx. 112K dots	2.7-inch wide-screen; approx. 123K dots	2.7-inch wide-screen; approx. 123K dots
Touch Panel LCD	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dimensions (HxWxD)	Approximately 2.9x3x5.5 inches	Approximately 2.4x2.7x4.8 inches	Approximately 2.4x2.7x4.8 inches	Approximately 2.5x2.4x4.9 inches	Approximately 2.3x2.2x4.8 inches	Approximately 2.3x2.2x4.8 inches

* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

FirstGlimpse

Canon's D-SLR Camera Lineup

Canon is the first to offer four D-SLRs that can record video in Full HD (1080)—the Rebel T1i, T2i, EOS 7D, and EOS 5D Mark II. Additionally, its lineup of D-SLRs provides the tools necessary for photography enthusiasts, as well as professionals, to capture images the way they intend. No limits on creativity, no frustrating missed shots. Consult our chart to help you find the Canon D-SLR that best suits your needs.



Product Name SKU	Canon EOS Rebel XS 8929699	Canon EOS Rebel T1i 9301819	Canon EOS Rebel T2i 9778635	Canon EOS 50D 9004418	Canon EOS 7D 9491935	Canon EOS 5D Mark II 9152454
						
MSRP	\$549.99*	\$799.99*	\$899.99*	\$1,299.99*	\$1,899.99*	\$2,499.99*
Cooltest Features	7-point autofocus, 2.5-inch LCD monitor with Live View, auto lighting optimizer	Full HD video capture with HDMI output, Live View for stills and video, 14-bit processor for smooth tones	9-point autofocus with two types of autofocus in Live View, spot metering, 3-inch LCD with Live View function	Live View with Face Detection Live, Lens Peripheral Illumination Correction settings to even brightness, HDMI output	19-point all cross-type AF system for accurate and fast shots, Dual DIGIC 4 image processors deliver high image quality and speed (up to 8fps), intelligent viewfinder offers 100% field of view	Full-frame 21.1MP image sensor, Full HD video capture with HDMI output, weather-resistant body, 3.0 Clear View LCD with antireflective and scratch-resistant coatings
Effective Resolution	10.1MP	15.1MP	18MP	15.1MP	18MP	21.1MP
Kit Lens	EF-S18/55	EF-S18/55 IS	EF-S18/55 IS	EF-28/135 ISU	EF-28/135 ISU	Body only (no lens)
Shutter Speed	30 to 1/4,000 second	30 to 1/4,000 second	30 to 1/4,000 second	30 to 1/8,000 second	60 to 1/8,000 second	30 to 1/8,000 second
Memory Card Support	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	CF Type I and II	CF Type I and II	CF Type I and II
Weight (Camera Body Only)	15.9 ounces	16.9 ounces	18.7 ounces	25.7 ounces	28.9 ounces	28.6 ounces
Maximum ISO	1600	3200; High-speed ISO 6400 and 12800 available	6400	3200; can be expanded to 6400 or 12800	6400; can be expanded to 12800	6400; can be expanded to 12800 or 25600
Continuous Shooting Speed	3 shots per second	3.4 shots per second	3.7 shots per second	6.3 shots per second	8 shots per second	3.9 shots per second
Battery Type	LP-E5 rechargeable	LP-E5 rechargeable	LP-E8 rechargeable	BP-511A rechargeable	LP-E6 rechargeable	LP-E6 rechargeable




* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Find The Nikon Coolpix That Fits Your Life

Nikon's COOLPIX cameras won't let you miss the joy in life, thanks to their fast start-up time, shutter speed, and auto focus. Each COOLPIX offers an ultra-compact and stylish design that will deliver sharp and colorful photo results with its NIKKOR lens. With a wide range of Nikon COOLPIX cameras available, it couldn't be easier to find a camera that can keep up with your photography needs.



At the heart of the image™

Product Name	Nikon COOLPIX L22	Nikon COOLPIX L110	Nikon COOLPIX S570	Nikon COOLPIX S3000	Nikon COOLPIX S8000	Nikon COOLPIX S4000	Nikon COOLPIX S70	Nikon P100
SKU	9765091	9758692	9455369	9765107	9758674	9758647	9455412	9758747
								
Additional Colors Available			<div>9464661</div> <div>9464616</div> <div>9463699</div>	<div>9765125</div> <div>9765143</div> <div>9765134</div>		<div>9765161</div> <div>9765152</div> <div>9779807</div>	<div>9463662</div> <div>9630449</div> <div>9630389</div>	
MSRP	\$129.95*	\$279.95*	\$179.95*	\$149.95*	\$299.95*	\$199.95*	\$299.95*	\$399.95*
Resolution	12MP	12.1MP	12MP	12MP	14.2MP	12MP	12.1MP	10.3MP
Zoom	3.6X optical; 4X digital	15X optical; 4X digital	5X optical; 4X digital	4X optical; 4X digital	10X optical; 2X digital	4X optical; 4X digital	5X optical; 4X digital	26X optical; 4X digital
LCD Monitor	3 inches	3 inches	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3.5-inch OLED	3-inch tilt and swivel LCD
Internal Memory & Compatible Cards	19MB internal & SD/SDHC	43MB internal & SD/SDHC	47MB internal & SD/SDHC	47MB internal & SD/SDHC	32MB internal & SD/SDHC	45MB internal & SD/SDHC	20MB internal & SD/SDHC	43MB internal & SD/SDHC
ISO	Up to 1600	Up to 6400	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 6400	Up to 3200
Shooting Modes	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 15 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	17 Scene Modes; Program, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, and Manual Exposure modes
Movie Mode	Yes	Yes (HD)	Yes	Yes	Yes (HD)	Yes (HD)	Yes (HD)	Yes (HD)
Touch-Panel Control	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Battery Type	2 AA batteries	4 AA batteries	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery	Li-Ion rechargeable battery
Battery Life	240 shots with alkaline, 660 shots with lithium-ion	270 shots with alkaline, 840 shots with lithium-ion	200 shots	220 shots	210 shots	190 shots	200 shots	250 shots

* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



Digital Camera

Compact Design With Touchscreen Technology



Nikon COOLPIX S4000

MSRP: \$199.95

SKU: 9765152 (plum)

9758647 (silver)

9765161 (red)

9779807 (pink)

www.nikonusa.com

Quick Overview

The COOLPIX S4000's 3-inch HVGA touch control LCD maximizes fun and efficiency when navigating the user-friendly menu interface or enjoying fingertip control over most camera functions. This stylish, slim camera is packed with features to help you capture a great shot every time. In addition to a 4X zoom, the S4000 comes with 16 scene modes and a Smart Portrait System. Built-in retouch and draw functions let you enhance or personalize your images quickly and easily.

Perfect For

Those who need a compact camera with touchscreen, HD movie, and other imaging features.

Outstanding Benefits

- 12MP allows you to print pictures as large as 16x20
- 4X wide-angle Zoom-NIKKOR glass lens has a range of 27 to 108mm
- Subject Tracking feature will follow moving subjects to ensure sharp focus
- Scene Auto Selector can automatically recognize what you're shooting and adjust camera settings accordingly
- D-Lighting optimizes high-contrast images to introduce details that are often lost in bright and dark areas
- 720p HD movie recording features
- 4-way VR Image Stabilization System

Coollest Feature

The Nikon COOLPIX S4000's 3-inch HVGA touchscreen lets you shoot, view, and retouch images. It has five color options for special filter effects: standard color, vivid color, black-and-white, sepia, and cyanotype.

FUJIFILM

Digital Camera Find Your HD Moment!



Fujifilm FinePix Z70

MSRP: \$149.95

SKU: 9766737 (Black)

9772598 (Silver)

9772561 (Blue)

9772589 (Berry)

www.bestbuy.com/fuji



Quick Overview

The FinePix Z70 with full metal chassis, brushed finish, and LED-lit command buttons is the perfect camera for those on-the-go. A non-extending "periscopic" Fujinon 5x zoom lens captures all the action. A separate movie shutter makes it easy to capture true HD movies with one-touch simplicity. The LED-lit command buttons are easy to see even in low light environments and looks cool.

Perfect For

The FinePix Z70 is perfect for anyone that wants a full featured camera with distinct styling that fits in a pocket.

Outstanding Benefits

- 12 megapixel; Fujinon 5x Periscopic Optical Zoom; 2.7-inch LCD
- One-touch capture of HD stills and movies with sound in 720p
- SR AUTO Automatic Scene Recognition mode detects six scene types
- Picture Stabilization helps eliminate blurry pictures
- Face Detection with Automatic Red Eye Removal
- Tracking Auto Focus keeps fast moving subjects in frame and focus
- Instantly tag stills and movies in camera for uploads to Facebook and YouTube
- In-camera editing features for stills and movies

Coollest Feature

A separate movie shutter button delivers one-touch simplicity for capturing 720p widescreen HD movies with sound. Successive Movie mode even lets you capture several clips in one movie.



Digital Camera

Easily Share Your Favorite Images



Insignia NS-DSC1112SL

MSRP: \$119

SKU: N/A

www.insigniaproducts.com

Quick Overview

The Insignia NS-DSC1112SL not only lets you take great pictures, but it also makes it easy for you to share those images with your friends and family. It features a 4X optical zoom that will let you get close to the action and 12MP to ensure your images are detailed and look their best when printed. Plus, you can easily share your favorite shots by taking out the SD/SDHC memory card and slipping it into a compatible device or using the USB output to connect your camera to your PC.

Perfect For

Individuals looking for a modestly priced camera packed with high-quality components.

Outstanding Benefits

- 12MP allows you to make prints of your favorite images in sizes up to 13x10.
- 4X optical zoom brings you closer to your subject without sacrificing image quality.
- The NS-DSC1112SL is SD/SDHC-compatible (up to 32GB), so you can easily share your photos by popping your memory card into compatible devices, such as HDTVs and digital photo frames.
- USB output allows you to easily sync your camera directly to your PC, Mac, or portable digital device to transfer files for viewing, editing, and storing.

Coollest Feature

The NS-DSC1112SL includes two ways for you to quickly transfer or share your photos with friends and family.



Digital Imaging Glossary

A

re you confused about what the lingo on camera boxes means? Use this glossary to help decode the world of digital imaging.

aperture—An iris-like diaphragm opening that can expand and contract the lens to let you control the amount of light that passes through it, thus affecting the exposure. The term “f-stop” can be used interchangeably with aperture.

burst mode—A camera mode that will let you capture several shots consecutively after pressing the shutter only one time.

CCD—A charge-coupled device is a type of image-sensing component. It converts light into energy that can be stored as digital data on your camera.

depth of field—The area that is in focus in front of and beyond the subject of your photo.

digital zoom—Magnifies an image digitally by cropping it and filling in the rest with interpolated pixels, thus degrading the quality. Even if the numbers are impressive, never choose a camera based on digital zoom.

f-stop—See aperture. Smaller f-stop numbers mean a wider lens opening; larger f-stop numbers mean a narrower lens opening.

ISO—For digital cameras, the ISO setting measures the sensitivity to light (similar to how it does with film). Digital camera ISO settings, such as 200, 400, and up, should capture photos as if one were using film with such a speed. Lower ISO settings mean you need more light and vice versa.

LCD—The screen on the back of the camera that lets you see a live-action view of your subject or your photo after you’ve taken it.

lens—The apparatus on the front of the camera that gathers and directs light toward the imaging device. In a digital camera, the lens likely has both an optical and digital zoom.

megapixel—Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher the megapixel count, the higher the resolution and the more you can crop, which means (in general) better-quality photos.

memory card—Because digital cameras have very little onboard memory, they need flash memory cards to store more than a dozen or so images. The type of memory card you need depends on the make and model of your camera. Some of the most popular memory cards are Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Compact Flash, and Sony Memory Sticks. In general, memory cards are quite small.

noise—The small statistical variations among pixels that lead to (usually) minor distortions of color in a photo.

optical zoom—The camera’s mechanical ability to move the lens physically closer to your subject. With optical zoom, the higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the better. When choosing a camera, always consider the optical zoom, not the digital zoom. Digital zoom artificially adds pixels.

resolution—The number of pixels in an image. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo. Resolution is measured in a proportion (such as 2,272 x 1,704).

shutter—A mechanism that opens and closes to allow light to pass through the lens. You can usually control the camera’s shutter speed.

shutter speed—The length of time a camera’s shutter is open to let light through the lens and hit the sensor, which records the image. This is expressed in fractions of a second: For instance, a shutter speed of 1/250 means that the shutter is open for 1/250th of a second.

viewfinder—The small opening in the camera that the user looks through to frame a shot. Some digital cameras don’t have a viewfinder and use only the camera’s LCD to frame the shot.

white balance—Light levels are adjusted electronically to ensure whites in a certain environment are pure, leading to more lifelike colors. White balance can usually be manually adjusted, too. **FG**

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

Prices for digital camcorders and cameras continue to fall as their video and picture quality improve, which is especially good news for first-time buyers or those looking to upgrade. Pairing your new camcorder or camera with the right products will bring you better photography results. Here are some must-have accessories you should consider buying to get the most out of your digital imaging device. **FC**



UV FILTER

- Protects digital camcorder and D-SLR lenses from dust, dirt, fingerprints, and scratches
- Helps you get clearer, more detailed results when you're shooting in bright conditions



ADDITIONAL LENSES/CONVERTER LENSES

- Extra lenses for D-SLRs and converter lenses for digital camcorders can enhance your results by extending your field of view, reducing glare, and more
- Telephoto lenses enable you to zoom in from far away, wide-angle lenses give you the ability to get a full view even if you're close to the subject, and macro lenses will let you achieve up-close, detailed shots of your photo subject



EXTRA MEDIA

- Keep spare memory cards on hand so you can snap away without having to worry about running out of storage space
- Consider having several memory cards with smaller capacities instead of one card with a larger capacity; that way, if something goes wrong with one card, you'll still have a backup
- For your digital camcorder, keep more recording media in your bag than you think you'll need, just in case



EXTERNAL FLASH

- Light up your subjects from greater distances
- Offers better control of lighting conditions when taking photos by directing the angle of the flash



SPARE BATTERIES & CHARGERS

- Make sure you're never caught without the power needed to capture the perfect moment
- Whether your camera uses proprietary batteries or AAs, keep at least one fully charged spare or set in your camera bag
- An additional battery charger will give you the flexibility to power up your camera batteries anywhere you're headed, even if you're traveling



REMOTE SWITCH

- A longer cable lets you snap photos without having to touch the camera, which can also reduce camera shake
- May enable the user to lock the shutter for longer exposure times



DIGITAL IMAGING SERVICES

Once you've set your sights on the camera or camcorder you want, consider taking advantage of the digital imaging services offered by your local CE retailer. Not only can you protect your investment, but you can also discover photography and videography skills that will make your photos and videos picture-perfect.

- D-SLR or Camcorder Service Plan
- D-SLR Training Course
- Camcorder Training Course



TRIPOD

- Tripods are an easy way to ensure steady video footage
- Pan while recording video in one smooth motion
- Use a tripod and your camera's timer to get a picture of the entire group without needing someone to man the camera
- Keeps your camera steady while you're shooting close-up or distance shots, which can prevent photo blurring

Enhance Their Entertainment

Home Theater Gifts For Moms, Dads & Grads

If Mom, Dad, or an upcoming grad loves movies and TV shows, a new home-theater gadget (or an upgrade to a current setup) makes a great gift. Here, we provide some entertaining presents for the special people in your life. **PG**

BY NATHAN LAKE



Gifts For Mom

A universal remote control. If Mom doesn't like using multiple remotes to operate the home theater, get her a universal remote control. By consolidating the control of home-theater components into a single remote, the home theater is much easier to use.

A DVR. Busy moms will love the ability to record their favorite programs and watch them at their convenience. A DVR can also pause live TV, so she can take a phone call or do a quick errand without missing anything.

Sound bar. A single speaker that can output surround sound means Mom can enjoy immersive audio without needing to adjust the room décor to hide the five speakers traditionally needed for a surround-sound speaker system.



Gifts For Dad

Turntable. Does Dad still have a collection of old records? With a new turntable, Dad can play them on the home theater or play and save the music as a digital file on his PC.

HDTV mount. Today's thin HDTVs look great hanging on a wall, and mounting your HDTV will give you more space in your home-theater room. You can also surprise Dad by having the installation done by a professional, which is recommended by mount manufacturers.

Blu-ray Disc player. With a BD player, Dad can watch his favorite war and action movies with the best video and audio quality available. And some players, such as the Toshiba BDV2500, feature entertainment extras; see page 8 for more information.



Gifts For Grads

Surge protector. Recent college grads and new college students don't have a lot of free cash to replace home-theater equipment fried by power surges and lightning. A surge protector can keep their electronics safe from both.

TV stand. Is your college grad's HDTV still sitting on top of a plank and cinderblocks? Upgrade their setup with a TV stand that is designed to hold the expensive hardware as well as other components.

Projector. Watching the big game with their friends is even more exciting when the picture is as large as the wall. For those who will be living in a dorm, a projector also offers a way to save space, because all you need is the projector and a screen.

FirstGlimpse

Picture-Perfect Ideas

Digital Imaging Gifts For Moms, Dads & Grads

Finding the right gift to honor the special people in your life can be a difficult task. Whether you're hunting for a Mother's Day, Father's Day, or graduation gift, you can't go wrong with a present that helps them capture and display their best memories. **FG**

BY TESSA WARNER BRENNEMAN



Gifts For Mom

A flash-based camcorder. No matter what she's capturing, flash-based camcorders, such as those available from Canon on page 30, record footage onto memory cards, which can be used to play back videos on TVs, digital photo frames, and more. Coupled with high-definition video capture, the footage will be sharp when she plays it back.

A tripod. A tripod will let your mom get in on the action, rather than needing to be behind the viewfinder. It can also help eliminate blurry photos and jerky video footage, so she can display great-looking images.

A digital photo frame. It might be difficult for your mom to choose just a handful of photos to display on the mantel. With a digital photo frame, she can look at an entire photo album or a mix of all her favorite photos from years past as a slideshow.



Gifts For Dad

A point-and-shoot camera. Because your dad has been planning your summer vacation for months, he'll enjoy a digital camera to record all the memorable family moments along the way. And on his annual fishing trip, he can capture proof of his record-breaking catch.

A photo printer. When Dad returns from his yearly fishing trip, he can print out his snapshots at home and create a photo album to show his family, rather than having to wait in line at the store for prints. He can also print off the photos you send via email.

A bag or case. When your dad travels with his camera or a camcorder, a case or bag will make it easier to carry and can also protect the camera if it's accidentally dropped. You can find small, portable cases or larger cases that are also able to hold several accessories.



Gifts For Grads

A D-SLR camera. On the European trip he got for a graduation present, your graduate will be able to log his adventures with detailed, high-quality photographs using a D-SLR, such as one from Nikon (see page 21). He'll be able to manually adjust camera settings to be more creative when capturing the scenery.

Photo- and video-editing software. Your graduate likely has many photos and videos from her years spent in school. With editing software, she can fine-tune her digital memories before creating collages, movies, or scrapbooks.

A wireless media card. Because your graduate is always in a hurry, a wireless media card will let her upload her images directly from her camera to her computer through her wireless home network, rather than having to connect the camera through a USB cord.

Give Them Something Tech-Tastic

Computer Gifts For Moms, Dads & Grads

No matter their age, occupation, or interests, every mom, dad, or grad can benefit from a new computer or accessory to make their everyday life more productive and more fun. Here are our top picks. **FE**

BY KRIS GLASER BRAMBILA



Gifts For Mom

External hard drive. Moms with a genealogy hobby need a portable place to store the public records they gather from historical societies. An external hard drive will let her store family files and pictures to use as she's compiling a genealogy gift book.

LCD monitor. A mom who wants to edit the photos in her collection on a monitor that provides crisp, clear details needs an LCD monitor. These take up less space on a desk than traditional CRT (cathode-ray tube) monitors and typically have better image contrast.

Photo printer. Moms who scrapbook need a lot of printed photos to add to their pages. Giving her a printer that's dedicated to photos will let her conveniently make prints at home.



Gifts For Dad

Laptop. Whether he's going on a family vacation or to the local coffee shop, a laptop will give Dad portable access to his files, email, and the Internet wherever there's a Wi-Fi hotspot. A larger screen size makes it easy to read the stories on his local news Web site.

Laptop bag. If your dad is traveling for business, he needs a convenient way to carry his laptop and accessories through the airport. A laptop bag or case can protect his laptop when he's traveling or when it's not in use. Most laptop bags feature extra compartments for accessories, such as an AC adapter or wireless mouse.

Wireless mouse. Dad can eliminate cord clutter with a wireless mouse. And one with Microsoft's BlueTrack technology can be used on nearly any surface; see page 46 for details.



Gifts For Grads

Netbook. High school grads need a small and lightweight computer for frequent travel. A netbook's battery life lets them work for hours without needing to plug in, so they can get their assignments done with battery life to spare.

Memory. Grads who want to do research, write term papers, and listen to music simultaneously need an adequate amount of computer memory. They won't have to wait while programs load, so they'll be able to work smoothly to accomplish their academic goals.

All-in-one printer. With an all-in-one printer, new college students can use one device that can print, copy, scan and fax while saving space on their desk. And college grads can use one device to print and fax cover letters and resumes.

FirstGlimpse

On-The-Go Gifts

Portable Devices Gifts For Moms, Dads & Grads

Good gifts match the receiver's personality and serve a practical purpose. Portable devices can meet both criteria, plus they're usable at home and away. Consider these portable gift ideas for moms, dads, and recent grads. **FG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

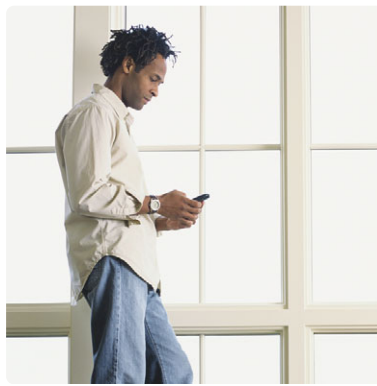


Gifts For Mom

Remote car starter. Moms who regularly truck kids around will appreciate a remote car starter for the one-button simplicity with which she can warm her car's interior before wintry morning trips to school or cool it down before heading to the pool in the summer.

Bluetooth headset. A mom juggling a career, family, and personal life must be efficient. A wireless Bluetooth headset will enable safer driving and keep her from continually reaching for her smartphone to take calls.

Two-way radio. Foremost on a good mom's mind is her kids' safety, especially when they're out of eyesight. A two-way radio set will keep her in communication at distances spanning miles, whether at a busy amusement park or secluded campsite.



Gifts For Dad

Marine/sports GPS device. GPS devices aren't just for driving. A golf-based device can show dad the exact yardage remaining on a par 5. Or if your dad prefers to spend his time on the lake, a marine GPS device will show him where the fish are congregating.

Mobile television. With a mobile television, your dad can get a daily dose of live sports, news, financials, jokes, sitcoms, and more from various stations. And content is displayed on a device he can bring with him anywhere his business travels take him.

MP3 player. An MP3 player will let Dad take his music with him anywhere. And with a model from SanDisk that can use slotRadio cards, he can add thousands of songs without needing to download them to the player; see page 62.



Gifts For Grads

Portable media player. A PMP with digital media playback, Web surfing, gaming, FM and HD Radio, voice recording, media streaming, and other capabilities is perfect for tech-savvy grads. Some models also include a video camera plus app, DVR, email, and GPS features.

Smartphone. New grads undergo many changes after graduation, including possibly moving to take a job. A smartphone will let her keep in touch with those back home, organize job contacts, play digital media, navigate via GPS, and run different applications.

Headphones. Whether used with a PMP or smartphone, headphones can provide a grad musical companionship during workouts before work and public transportation commutes after.

Entertain Your Family

Gaming, Media & More Gifts For Moms, Dads & Grads

It can be difficult to find the perfect gift for every family member. Mom wants to enjoy a book and good coffee, Dad prefers staying at home to play sports games on the family console, and a new high school grad uses the PC for all her gaming. With so many preferences, how do you buy gifts for moms, dads, and grads so that everyone is satisfied? Keep reading our gift guide to find out. **EG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD



Gifts For Mom

Portable gaming system. Moms might assume that a portable gaming system would only be useful for playing games, but they're actually equipped to do far more than that. Some models are feature-packed with cameras and photo viewers, large storage capacities, and video-chatting capabilities.

eReader. If your mom considers herself an avid reader, gift her with an eReader. And, in addition to ebooks, some models can also support virtual newspapers, text documents, PDFs, and RSS feeds.

Acoustic guitar. The mom who is looking for a hobby might find she likes playing the guitar. Give her a beginner's six-string with a built-in tuner. Throw in an instructional DVD, and she'll be playing in practically no time at all.



Gifts For Dad

Sports games. If your dad likes sports games, whether he's gaming on the PC or one of your standalone consoles, consider giving him one more. There are many types of sports games he could enjoy, including golf, fishing, boxing, hunting, and more.

Portable charging station. The gadget-guru dad is always carrying several devices. Give him a portable charging station for Father's Day so he can charge multiple mobile devices using a single plug anywhere he can plug in the station.

Smartpen. If your dad is a small-business owner, you can help him stay organized with a smartpen, which can record audio annotations and capture all the notes he's written or drawn. When he's done, he can easily transfer each note to his laptop.



Gifts For Grads

Karaoke system. The new grad who's moving to a dorm for the first time will need some form of entertainment for homework breaks. You can buy her a karaoke system so she can sing along to her favorite tunes.

Gaming mouse. If your grad is heavily into PC gaming, celebrate his graduation by giving him a brand-new gaming mouse. The latest gaming mice include features such as rapid response times, Bluetooth connectivity, and ergonomic designs, so he can game with precision and comfort.

Game guides. To complement the gaming mouse, give your grad game guides that accompany his collection of video games. These include walkthroughs, cheat codes, side quest pointers, and more.

FirstGlimpse

Belkin Play Wireless Router

Charting New Territory

Think of a wireless router, and what comes to mind? Complicated? Boring? Intimidating? Think again. Belkin's multitalented Play Wireless Router (\$99.99; www.belkin.com) shatters such notions. Featuring an easy installation; fast Dual-Band Wireless N speed; and half a dozen integrated apps for audio, print, data backup, and networking tasks, the Play redefines the wireless router experience.

1, 2, 3 . . . Ready

Historically, installing wireless networks has given users fits. With Belkin's Easy Start approach, however, setup takes just three steps from unboxing the Play to having it running with security in place. Further, Belkin's on-screen Router Monitor interface lets you check the Play's network status at any time directly on the monitor screen.

An Aptitude For Apps

The Play router comes with apps that can entertain, provide security, and more. Music Mover will stream U2 tracks from Dad's digital music library to the home theater via such media extender devices as the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, while Daily DJ will automatically compile the tracks into playlists using his song library and his musical mood as a basis.

Play Wireless Router
\$99.99 • www.belkin.com

Print Genie makes connecting compatible printers to the Play for printing from networked systems a cinch. And when you connect an external hard drive to the Play, Memory Safe will automatically back up your irreplaceable files. Self-Healing will automatically detect and resolve network problems and perform regular maintenance scans.

Power Up & Play

The Play's reach extends far beyond apps. Simultaneous Dual-Band N technology makes both the 2.4GHz and

Choices, Choices, Choices

The Play Wireless Router is one of five models in Belkin's new line of wireless routers. Other models include:

- **Basic:** \$34.99, up to 150Mbps, and preset security settings included
- **Surf:** \$49.99, up to 300Mbps, and preset security settings and Self-Healing app included
- **Play Max:** \$129.99, up to 300Mbps, and adds Bit Boost and Torrent Genie to the apps included with the Play



5GHz bands available at speeds up to 300Mbps (5x faster than 802.11g). This router provides the ideal conditions to handle standard data and Web traffic, file- and photo-sharing, and more resource-demanding gaming and media streaming tasks.

Belkin's dual-plane antenna design and MIMO technology, meanwhile, translates into a strong, steady signal that blankets the home in 3D coverage that won't hiccup when passing through walls and floors. Also impressive is the Play's easy three-step installation, one-touch Wi-Fi Protected Setup, and preconfigured security settings that start protecting the network immediately.

The Whole Package

Combine the Play's Dual-Band N speed, reliability, and 3D wireless coverage of the entire home with its audio, print, backup, and security apps, and you have a wireless router that does more for home users than any wireless router previous. **FG**

HOW TO BUY A Gaming Monitor

Get The Most Out Of Your Display



ou must have the appropriate hardware to enjoy gaming on a desktop PC. When picking out a monitor for gaming, consider our specification guidelines, so you can get the

most out of your PC gaming sessions.

Refresh Rate

When you're enjoying a quick-paced first-person shooter game, running from building to building, you don't want your graphics to blur or split. To counteract this effect (called ghosting), look for a monitor that features a refresh rate (also known as response time) of less than 8ms. A fast refresh rate lets pixels alter colors rapidly so the images aren't streaking across the scene. The lower the refresh rate number, such as 2ms or 4ms, the faster the graphics are updated.

Viewing Angle

Understanding a monitor's viewing angle—the degree at which you can view on-screen images—is important because it tells you how you can situate your monitor at an angle that's comfortable but doesn't obscure the visual quality of the display. For instance, if you have a large monitor mounted on your wall, but you prefer to casually leave the keyboard on your lap, it's

Visual Enhancements

- Consider the refresh rate, viewing angle, and resolution when choosing a gaming monitor.
- A low refresh rate is best in order to prevent image blurring, also known as ghosting.
- Look for a viewing angle closest to 180 degrees if you want to view the display from multiple viewpoints.

imperative that you're still able to look up to see what you're playing.

A gaming monitor's viewing angle should be as close to 180 degrees as possible, so you can view the monitor at multiple vantage points. Other appropriate viewing angles are 160 or 170 degrees. If you opt for a viewing angle that's smaller than 160 degrees, you'll run the risk of not being able to see portions of the image or having to put up with distorted colors when you game.

Aspect Ratio

Aspect ratio, the proportion of a monitor's width and height, used to be a commonly cited specification. But now, the majority of available monitors have a 16:9 aspect ratio. This wide-screen aspect ratio gives a monitor a

broader display space, letting you view adventure games in landscape style. However, it's possible that some games may seem stretched if they're better-suited for a 4:3 (standard or "square") aspect ratio.

Resolution

A monitor's resolution is dependent on what size of monitor you get. If you want the highest pixelation possible as you whip around corners in racing games, consider a monitor that has a display size of 22 inches or more. Also note that some monitors support wall mounting; if they're thin enough and you have the wall space, you can attach your gaming monitor to the wall to give you more arm and legroom. **PC**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD



Bring Your TV & PC Together

Enjoy More With A TV Tuner & Media Storage Device

Despite their proven multimedia capabilities, most of us do not use our PCs to watch TV shows and movies. Believe it or not, a simple upgrade can give your PC the soul of a TV, and it doesn't involve shoving the sofa in front of it. Read on for all the ways a TV tuner or media storage device connected to your PC can expand your entertainment horizons.

Tune In From Your PC

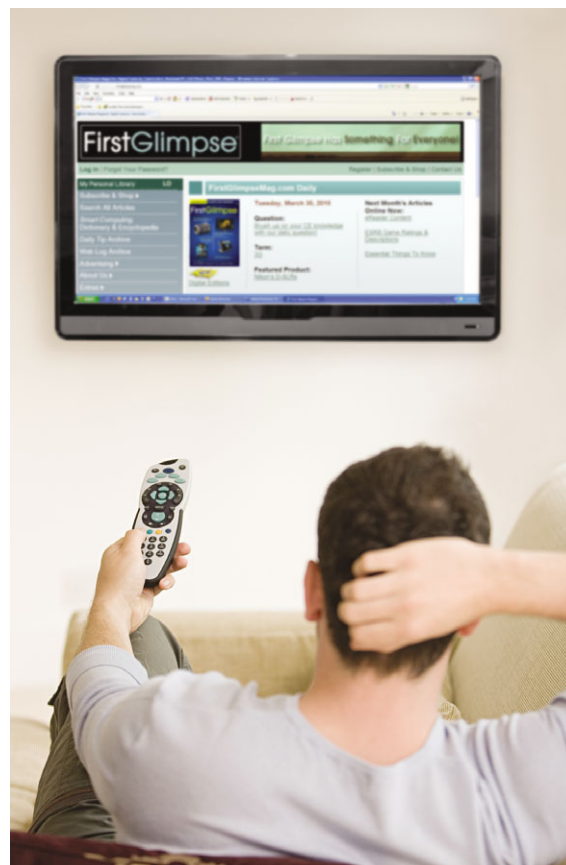
The key to transforming your PC into a TV is a TV tuner, which comes in both external and internal models. External tuners plug into your PC's USB port, while internal TV tuners must be installed in a PCI or PCI-E slot. Both external and

internal TV tuners feature video input ports that let you connect an antenna; set-top box; or other video signal, such as cable TV or satellite service, and most even support recording HD content. The TV tuner lets you watch live TV, pause, rewind, and record, using either bundled PVR software or Windows Media Center, which is included in most versions of Vista and Windows 7. Better yet, you can also connect your PC to your TV to perform all of these functions from the comfort of your sofa with a remote control (no furniture moving required).

We've all missed an episode of our favorite show for one reason or another, but with a TV tuner, it's a simple matter of scheduling your shows in advance. Can't play poker with the guys on Tuesday nights because "Lost" is on? Get a TV tuner, set it to record, and ante up.

Store & Watch From Your TV

A USB media storage device is another component you can use to further blur the line between your TV and PC. These devices connect directly to your PC and/or TV and act as a media repository. Using a remote control, you can browse interactive menus and navigate to anything you have stored on the device for playback on your TV. SD and HD home videos, recorded TV, and even your music and photo libraries are just a few button taps away on your TV. And many of them let you connect external hard



drives to boost the media device's storage capacity even further.

At family gatherings, instead of cramming all the grandparents, aunts, and uncles into the office so they can watch little Jimmy score the winning field goal, keep everyone in the family room and just navigate to the film clip from your TV using a media storage device and its remote.

More Media Where You Want It

TV tuners and media storage devices are all about giving you access to entertainment in new ways. Don't let the location of your media or the broadcast constraints of a show or movie you want to watch be a barrier. Become the boss of your media. **FG**

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

The Basics

- TV tuners blend the benefits of a TV with the capabilities of your PC, letting you watch, pause, rewind, and record TV.
- You can access the content you've recorded on your PC from your TV.
- Media storage devices bring your media libraries to your TV, where you can enjoy them the most.

The Freedom Of BlueTrack

Microsoft's Precision Mouse Technology



MOST MICE DON'T WORK ON REFLECTIVE SURFACES like granite, or on rough surfaces like carpet. But a mouse with Microsoft's BlueTrack Technology can be used on almost any surface. From a wooden bench to a leather armrest, Microsoft gives you the power to precisely control your cursor wherever you use your computer.

How It Works


Compared to the red LED beam that's used in a traditional optical mouse, Microsoft's aptly named BlueTrack Technology features a blue LED beam that provides a more precise surface image, so the mouse movement is more accurate. The blue optical beam is also much larger than a laser beam, which gives it the power to work on uneven surfaces like carpet, where the beam of a laser mouse often gets caught.

Key Benefits

If you prefer using a mouse with your notebook or netbook, you'll no longer need to search for a spot that offers a flat, unreflective surface. And if you have a desktop computer, you won't need a mousepad to use the mouse on a desk with a thick wood grain, which may cause the mouse to work intermittently, or a metal desk with a slightly reflective sheen, which could prevent the mouse from working at all.

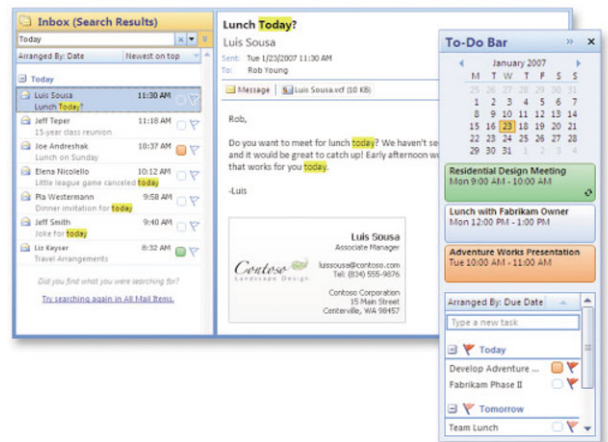
Find Your BlueTrack Mouse

All of the Microsoft mice below offer BlueTrack Technology, and to help you choose the model that best fits your needs, we've highlighted other key features that may be available.

Model	Comfort Mouse 4500	Wireless Mobile Mouse 3500	Wireless Mobile Mouse 4000	Wireless Mouse 5000	Wireless Mobile Mouse 6000
					
MSRP	\$24.95	\$29.95	\$39.95	\$39.95	\$49.95
Rubber side grips for comfort	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Customizable buttons	Yes: 5	No	Yes: 4	No	Yes: 5
Plug-And-Go Nano Transceiver you can leave in your notebook or stow inside the mouse	No	Yes	Yes	No (has snap-in mini transceiver)	Yes
4-way scroll wheel; Can integrate with Windows 7's Windows Flip feature	No	No	Yes; Yes	No	Yes; Yes
Uses 2.4GHz wireless signal with 30-foot range for an interference-free, stable connection	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
On/off switch to conserve power	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Available color(s) & SKUs	■ 9715898	■ 9798431 ■ 9798495 ■ N/A at Press Time ■ 9828488 ■ 9828497 ■ 9828479	■ 9401685 ■ 9723324 ■ 9723315 ■ 9401783	■ 9346987	■ 9346736 ■ 9828267 ■ 9828382 ■ 9828406

Communication Made Easier

Outlook 2007 Will Help You Get Organized



Microsoft Outlook has always been about helping you manage your life by helping you manage your information. A key application in the Microsoft Office 2007 suites (\$149.95 to \$679.95; www.microsoft.com), Outlook offers much more than just a place to get your email. It serves as a total communications hub and includes go-to tools for facilitating communication, contacts, and collaboration with colleagues and friends. Outlook lets you organize your emails, tasks, and calendar using one consistent interface. You can track, prioritize, connect, and collaborate, and do it all secure in the knowledge that the application is helping to keep you safe from malware and spam.

Outlook 2007 sports dozens of useful tools and features. You can use a handy To-Do Bar to view and organize your appointments, flagged emails, and pending tasks. Use the integrated Instant Search function to find information, whether it's in your email, calendar, contacts, or even hidden within email attachments. Quickly create a task, note, or meeting right from within an email. Use colors to categorize and visually distinguish items. And share calendars with anyone, even if they're not using Outlook.

Outlook is a tremendous communications tool, both on its own and as an important part of Microsoft Office. Going far beyond mere email, the wide array of powerful, easy-to-use features in Outlook will help keep you organized and in control of your communications. **FG**

FREE UPGRADE

If you want Microsoft Office 2007's features and the new features sure to be offered in Office 2010, you're in luck. With Microsoft's Technology Guarantee Program, you can be assured of a smooth and FREE upgrade to the newer version. Any version of Office that contains Outlook 2007 qualifies for an upgrade to Office 2010. Purchase a version of Office 2007 between March 5 and Sept. 30 and install and activate the software suite by Sept. 30. Once Office 2010 is released, you can head to www.office.com/techg to download it or select the DVD upgrade option for an additional fee.

It's Your Choice: Which Version is Best for You?

Not sure you need all the power of Office Ultimate? Luckily, Microsoft offers five versions of its Office Suite, so you can choose the one that best fits your lifestyle and budget. And keep in mind that you can stay up-to-date at no extra cost, as any of these Office 2007 products are eligible for Microsoft's Technology Guarantee Program.

Microsoft Office	Home and Student	Standard	Small Business	Professional	Ultimate
Word 2007 Create great-looking documents.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Excel® 2007 Make eye-catching spreadsheets and charts.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PowerPoint® 2007 Create stunning presentations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
OneNote® 2007 Organize your notes and information.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outlook® Manage calendar and e-mail.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outlook® 2007 with Business Contact Manager Manage e-mail, calendar and business contacts.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Publisher 2007 Design marketing materials.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access® 2007 Create and manage databases.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
InfoPath® 2007 Create forms to collect information.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Groove® 2007 Collaborate with your work team.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

HOW TO SHOP FOR A _____

Processor

Intel's Core Processors Are Smart



Once upon a time, the capability of a processor was determined by the clock speed (measured in gigahertz, but way back in the day it was megahertz). Then gigahertz didn't matter because it was all about number of cores a processor had. In both cases, the higher the numbers, the better. For example, a 2GHz processor was faster than a 1.7GHz chip, and a dual-core processor was better than a single-core, period.

Times have changed once more in the processor industry. While gigahertz and the number of cores can help with performance, it's no longer how much muscle you have, it's about being smart with how you use them.

Work Smarter, Not Harder

The processor functions as the brain of the computer. How fast and how well a PC can process information and run applications is largely dependent on the performance of the processor. With that

in mind, Intel (www.intel.com), has created smarter processors.

You want a processor that's fast enough for your applications you have today and will add tomorrow, but you also want a smart chip that uses its computing resources efficiently. This can lead to longer battery life on laptops and a lower energy bill for desktop users. Lastly, a more efficient processor runs cooler and this leads to better performance. When an inefficient processor constantly runs on all cylinders it creates heat, and to offset overheating, the processor will naturally slow down.

Juggling Jobs

Running multiple computer applications at once requires a processor that can handle simultaneous tasks, some of which may require intensive multi-threaded processing. To accomplish this without taking a noticeable performance hit, you need a processor such as one of Intel's new Core i3, Core i5, or Core i7 chips that feature four-way or eight-way multitasking capabilities.

Find A Smart Processor

- Don't be distracted by the number of cores and the clock speed.
- Look for smart technologies that boost performance.
- Multiple-way multitasking will enable your computer to handle more simultaneous intensive tasks.
- Energy-efficient design allows energy savings and increased performance.



Intel's new processors also feature Smart Cache, which keeps oft-accessed data in temporary storage so the processor can access it quickly.

Energy Efficiency

Older multi-core processors had plenty of horsepower, but they had an energy-wasting problem—even when idle, extra cores were still using a little energy.

Intel's new chips actually shut down those idle cores when they're not needed, thus saving energy. Then, Intel's Turbo Boost routes the potential power in the idle cores to active ones, giving the processor an automatic speed boost.






Further, Intel's Core processors are denser than ever, built on a 32-nanometer architecture, leading to less power leakage and lower heat production, which leads to better energy conservation in both laptops and desktops.

When you're shopping for a processor, remember that it's the smart technology that delivers the best performance. **PC**

Intel Processors To Fit Every Computing Need

Your computer's processor serves as its brain, so you'll need one with smart features to get the best performance. Intel (www.intel.com) has developed a range of processors designed with features that can enhance your computing performance. These allow you to accomplish more tasks in a short amount of time. Here, we compare the features Intel offers so you can find a processor that works best with your needs.



					
Processor Threads Number of tasks your PC can handle at the same time	1	2	4	4	8
Intel Smart Memory Access Boosts performance by optimizing the use of available data bandwidth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intel HD Graphics Superior visual performance for sharp images, rich color, and lifelike audio and video.*			✓	✓	✓
Intel Hyper-Threading Technology Each processor core simultaneously works on two tasks for better performance.			✓	✓	✓
Intel Smart Cache Processor cores operate based on your computer's workload.			✓	✓	✓
Intel Turbo Boost Technology Automatically speeds up your processor when extra performance is needed.				✓	✓

*Optional in all Intel Core processors

Graphically Speaking

What To Look For When Purchasing A Video Card



A computer gamer must have one to play titles at the highest settings; a video editor needs one to quickly render effects; and a media-center PC owner wants one to play HD content from his PC onto his home theater. A video card is just the trick for anyone who wants to improve her PC's ability to process high-end graphics and display content at high resolutions. To help you pick a video card that suits your upgrade needs, we'll explain the specifications you should look for.

It's A PCI-E World

The technology surrounding graphics cards changes fast, but one thing that hasn't changed recently is the popularity of the PCI-E (Peripheral Component

Interconnect Express) x16 interface, which is the connector type found on nearly all graphics cards manufactured within the past two years. If you have a computer that requires an older AGP- or PCI-based graphics card, you may want to upgrade your PC.

Video Memory

Similar to your computer, a graphics card comes with its own memory, so it can store video data and effectively render images at millions of pixels per second. The more memory the video card offers, the higher the video resolution your PC can handle. That being said, if you don't play video games at the highest settings or render video at HD quality, a graphics card with 512MB (or less) of video memory will be sufficient. Graphics cards also feature an internal processor. Look for a card with a core clock with better than 500MHz clock speed for best results.

Teamwork

If your computer supports Nvidia's SLI or ATI's CrossFireX, which allow you to use two (or more) identical Nvidia- or ATI-based graphics cards as one video-crunching device, you can install two cards and further improve the graphics performance on your PC. Additionally, some video cards feature two GPUs (graphics processing units)—think of it



as a dual-core processor for video—to deliver dual GPU performance from a single video card. The most recently released graphics cards are also designed to perform HD video decoding, taking some calculation duties away from the processor. If you want the most realistic color and video quality, look for a graphics card that supports HD video playback.

Video Output

Nearly all current graphics cards offer two dual-link DVI (Digital Visual Interface) outputs, which let you hook up two monitors and span your desktop across both screens. The digital DVI output is superior to the analog, VGA (Video Graphics Array) interface found on older computers and monitors.

If you're looking to quickly hook up your PC to an HDTV, you should look for a graphics card with an HDMI output, which provides the DVI's all-digital, uncompressed video quality as well as the ability to carry digital audio. High-end graphics cards also support HD resolutions, so your PC will deliver the same quality as your other HD devices. **FC**

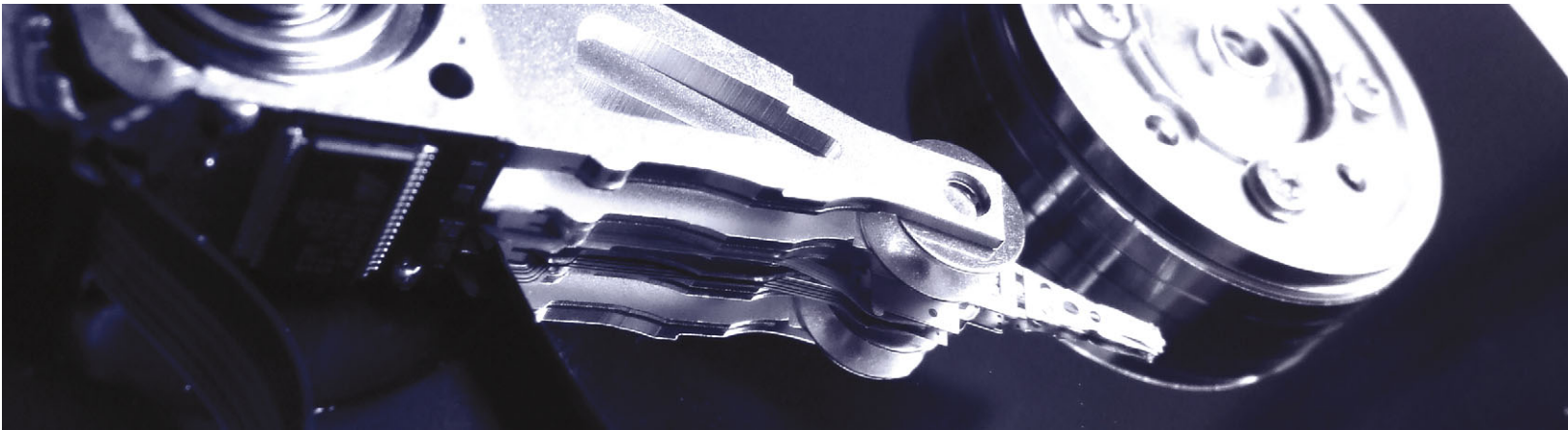
BY NATHAN LAKE

Integrated vs. Dedicated

Some desktop computers may not have a graphics card at all. Instead, the computer's motherboard has a chip that performs the video processing. The biggest downside to integrated graphics is that the video chip shares your computer's memory, otherwise known as RAM, which degrades the PC's overall and video processing performance. ●

Restore Lost Files

Tools To Revive Your Hard Drive



Eventually, we all experience some type of data loss. Whether you accidentally delete the one and only video of your daughter's high school graduation or your hard drive suddenly crashes and takes your whole digital life with it, losing files can seem catastrophic. But with dedicated backup and recovery software, you can restore the files you thought were gone forever.

Backup and recovery software helps you create a backup of the files on your computer so that when your hard drive takes a blow, you won't lose your data. If you use backup and recovery software to create a copy of your hard drive before data loss occurs, you can easily recover your data if it is lost, which can save the day in many situations. For example, your computer might become infected with a virus that corrupts the pictures on your hard drive, making them impossible to open. But because you made a copy of your hard drive, you can quickly and easily restore the pictures you lost.

The Benefits

You may think that your computer already has the necessary tools to recover your lost files, but backup and recovery software offers several benefits that your operating system doesn't. For example, most backup and recovery software features an intuitive, easy-to-use interface that takes little time to learn, so you can restore files quickly while you go about other computer tasks, such as listening to your music collection or checking your online bank account, while your computer performs the backup.

Backing up your data may seem like an extensive task, but with the various options that backup and recovery software can provide, safeguarding your files is a one-click event. Simply configure the software to back up files on a date and time of your choosing, and the software will automatically duplicate your pictures, videos, emails, financial documents, and other files. You can even specify which files or folders are copied or configure your backup software to save only the files that have recently changed. Narrowing

down the number of files you want to back up can not only save hard drive space, but it also lessens the amount of time each backup takes.

Most backup and recovery software lets you save copies of your hard drive in a compressed file format that doesn't take up as much space on your storage device, so you can lower the risk of data loss by creating duplicate backups and saving them to a USB flash drive or network drive.

Reunite With Your Files

Once your files are saved in an alternate location, such as an external hard drive or USB flash drive, recovering lost or corrupted files only takes a few simple steps. Use your software's search function to locate the photos from your family's summer vacation by searching for the file name or type and restore them with a click of a button. With backup and recovery software, you can have peace of mind knowing that even when your files are lost, they're not gone forever. **FC**

BY KRIS GLASER BRAMBILA

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

HARD DRIVE STORAGE

Q What is a flash drive?

A It's an internal or external solid-state flash memory drive that can do the file storage duties of a hard drive. Also called an SSD (solid-state drive), a flash drive can accelerate a computer's bootup, program launches, and other common tasks.

Q What other benefits are there to flash drives?

A They're generally tougher than hard drives and silent because they have no moving parts. Flash drives also run cooler than hard drives and can help extend a laptop's battery life because they may use less power than hard drives.

Q Are there drawbacks to flash drives?

A Currently, they're relatively expensive compared to traditional hard drives. Also, some slow down over time unless you use Windows 7 or you occasionally run a special deleted file cleanup utility.

Q How should I shop for a new hard drive?

A First, match your old drive's connectors and physical size. Next, take into consideration the drive's overall capacity, cost per gigabyte, read and write performance, and warranty coverage.

Q What kinds of external hard drives are there?

A Desktop external drives are somewhat fragile but feature more capacity and speed per dollar. Portable drives are smaller in size and capacity and can operate with only one cable.

Q How does a hard drive work?

A This inexpensive, common mass storage drive uses magnetic fields to store data on spinning, rigid disks. It swings read/write heads back and forth across the disks' surfaces.

Q What are USB flash drives?

A These pocketable solid-state devices can store tens of gigabytes but are no bigger than your thumb. To use one, you plug it into your computer's USB port.

Q Why would I want an external hard drive?

A They're great for fast file backups. Also, it's much easier to add capacity to your computer with an external drive than with an internal model.

Q Is there a type of drive that all of the computers on my network can share?

A Yes. A NAS (network-attached storage) unit is suitable for family backups, file transfers, and media streaming.

Q What should I look for in a flash drive?

A Support for Win7's TRIM feature (automatic deleted file cleanup) and fast read and write rates (in MBps).

Q What pros and cons do hard drives have?

A High capacities and low prices are their main benefits. That said, they're fragile, and they can slow down many computing tasks (especially in notebooks and netbooks).



Computing Glossary



hopping for a computer can be intimidating, especially with all of the complex terminology. Here, we explain some common computer jargon.

Bluetooth—A short-range wireless standard that wirelessly connects devices such as computers, printers, PDAs, and digital cameras so they can be used together without being connected physically with a cord.

broadband—Network connections that transmit high-speed Internet access. Cable companies offer network speeds of up to 8 to 11Mbps, whereas phone companies offer DSL (Digital Subscriber Line), which supports maximum speeds of 3 to 5Mbps.

CRT (cathode-ray tube)—An old analog display technology for TVs and computer monitors. It features an electron gun illuminating phosphor dots that line the inside of a glass tube. When the phosphors are lit, they display on-screen images. CRTs consume a great deal of power and are heavy and bulky. Many CRTs support digital signals, though these are degraded when converted to analog.

dual-core processor—This integrated circuit, which controls the computer, features two processors, each with its own cache, on a single die or chassis. In a dual-core configuration, the operating system has two processors to handle instructions, speeding up the computer and its ability to multitask.

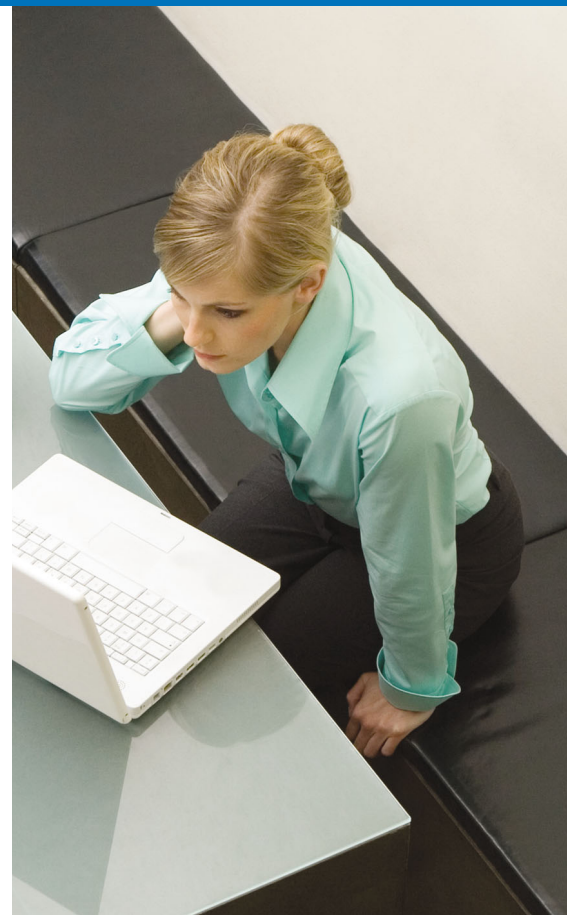
Ethernet—A widely used LAN protocol in which computers and networks are physically linked with a cord.

firewall—Hardware or software that limits access by a network or another outside source to your computer; it also may limit your computer's access to the network. These security measures are designed to protect your computer from outsiders who'd like to exploit it in some way. By the same token, firewalls may prevent infected files on your computer from accessing the larger network and spreading the problem to other users.

LAN (local-area network)—A group of computers that are physically connected by wires so they can communicate with one another and share information.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—Liquid-crystal display technology sandwiches liquid crystals between thin sheets of glass. The crystals twist and untwist to allow and block light from a backlight, forming the images you see. LCDs are thinner, lighter, and consume less power than CRTs. Initially used mostly in notebook PCs, you'll now find LCD TVs and computer monitors, and they are also in digital cameras, cell phones, portable DVD players, and PDAs.

office suite—Productivity software, such as Microsoft Office, StarOffice, and OpenOffice.org, that often includes word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, database, and financial tools.



operating system—The software, such as Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Mac OS X, that controls a computer and its peripherals and serves as the primary interface for the users.









processor—Also known as a microprocessor or the CPU, this integrated circuit controls the computer.

RAM (random-access memory)—A standard type of memory that's read from and written to by the CPU and hardware.

upgradeable—This term refers to the ability to add or swap out hardware to boost a computer's performance, increase its speed, or replace a defective or obsolete device or component. For instance, you may add more memory, replace an old CRT with a widescreen LCD, or swap out an older graphics card for a newer one that features an ATSC TV tuner so you can watch digital TV on your computer. Look for a computer with expansion slots or empty bays. **REG**

Which Notebook Computer Is Best For You?









A notebook computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several different types of notebook models.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Screen size	Dimensions; Weight	Optical drives; Media card reader
	What It Means	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	The diagonal measurement of the notebook's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the laptop weighs	Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral
	Acer AS5532-5535 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9555769	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.6GHz AMD Athlon	160GB; 3GB	15.6 inches	1.5x14.4x10.8 inches; N/A	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	HP Pavilion G62-144DX MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9769412	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.13GHz Intel Core i3	500GB; 4GB	15.6 inches	1.25 to 1.44x14.72x9.7 inches; 5.5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Toshiba Satellite E205-S1904 MSRP: \$899* SKU 9701191	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.2GHz Intel Core i5	500GB; 4GB	14 inches	1.22x13.7x9.57 inches; 5.1 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Apple MacBook MSRP: \$999* SKU 9611541	Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard	2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	250GB; 2GB	13.3 inches	1.08x13x9.12 inches; 4.7 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; No
	Dell Studio s15z-2249CPN MSRP: \$999* SKU 9684515	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.2GHz Intel Core i5	500GB; 4GB	15.6 inches	N/A	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Asus G60JX-RBBX05 MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9736955	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.26GHz Intel Core i5	500GB; 4GB	16 inches	1.6x10.4x14.8 inches; 7.5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Sony VAIO VPCS111FM/S MSRP: \$1,049* SKU 9701289	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.2GHz Intel Core i5	500GB; 4GB	13.3 inches	1.08 to 1.24x12.95x9 inches; 4.4 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Alienware M15x MSRP: \$1,999* SKU 9722255	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.6GHz Intel Core i7	320GB; 4GB	15.6 inches	1.9x14.9x12.2 inches; 9 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Netbook Is Best For You?

Netbooks don't offer the full capabilities that notebooks do, but these compact devices are ideal for those who need to stay connected while on the go. To find the netbook that fits your mobility needs, here's a comparison of the latest models.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Graphics card	Memory card reader	Ports
What It Means		The software (usually Windows XP or 7) that controls your PC	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Controls the quality of the video and images you see on-screen	Slots that can read media cards without a separate peripheral	Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals
	eMachines EM250-1915 MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9740848	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/MMC/MS/MS Pro/xD-Picture Card	3 USB; 1 Ethernet
	Averatec N1231EA1E-1S MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9812044	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom	160GB; 1GB	N/A	N/A	2 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	MSI U100-641US MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9178775	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/MMC/MS/MS Pro	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	Gateway LT2122u MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9728498	Windows 7 Starter	1.6GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/MMC/MS/MS Pro/xD-Picture Card	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	Samsung NP-N150-JA03US MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9727287	Windows 7 Starter	1.6GHz Intel Atom	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/SDHC/MMC	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	HP 210-1080NR MSRP: \$379.99* SKU 9739458	Windows 7 Starter	1.6GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/MMC/MS/MS Pro/xD-Picture Card	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	Sony VPCW211AX/L MSRP: \$449.99* SKU 9724183	Windows 7 Starter	1.6GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/MS Duo	2 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	Lenovo S10-3T-0651 MSRP: \$449.99* SKU 9717941	Windows 7 Starter	1.6GHz Intel Atom	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3150	SD/MMC/MS/MS Pro	2 USB; 1 Ethernet

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which All-In-One PC Is Right For You?

An all-in-one computer is compact, thanks to all its hardware being placed in the monitor. Some models offer a touchscreen interface that lets you access functions by selecting on-screen items with your finger, while others rely on a wireless mouse and keyboard. To see which all-in-one PC fits your needs, check out the chart below.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Display; Optical drive	Ports	Graphics card	
	What It Means	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Display size (measured diagonally); Disc drive included with the system	Inputs the computer has for accessing peripherals	Controls the quality of your video and images	
Touchscreens		HP Pavilion MS225 MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 9704055	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.6GHz AMD Athlon II Dual-Core	320GB; 4GB	18.5 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	6 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	ATI Radeon HD 3200
		Lenovo IdeaCentre A600 MSRP: \$799* SKU 9851861	Windows 7 Home Premium	2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	500GB; 3GB	21.5 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	6 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 4500
		Sony VAIO VGC-JS450F/S MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9561592	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.7GHz Intel Pentium	500GB; 4GB	20.1 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW	1 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Nvidia GeForce 9300M GS
		Apple iMac MC413LL/A MSRP: \$1,499.99* SKU 9611569	Mac OS X v10.6 Snow Leopard	3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	1TB; 4GB	21.5 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	4 USB, 1 Ethernet, 1 FireWire, media card reader	ATI Radeon HD 4670
		Apple iMac MB952LL/A MSRP: \$1,699* SKU 9611587	Mac OS X v10.6 Snow Leopard	3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	1TB; 4GB	27 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	4 USB, 1 Ethernet, 1 FireWire, media card reader	ATI Radeon HD 4670
		Gateway ZX4800-02 MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 9527942	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.1GHz Intel Pentium	750GB; 4GB	20 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	6 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator X4500HD
		HP TouchSmart 300-1020 MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 9563171	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.7GHz AMD Athlon II	500GB; 4GB	20 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	5 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	ATI Radeon HD 3200
		HP TouchSmart 600-1055 MSRP: \$1,599.99* SKU 9555821	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	750GB; 4GB	23 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW	6 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Nvidia GeForce GT230M

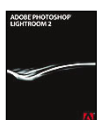
*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Software Listings

Get More Out Of Your PC

Computers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, balance your checkbook, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

Art/Illustration/Graphics



**Adobe Photoshop
Lightroom 2**
\$299*
www.adobe.com

This photo management software from Adobe lets you quickly and easily import, process, manage, and showcase your images.



Corel PaintShop Photo Pro X3
\$99.99*
www.corel.com

Corel PaintShop Photo Pro X3 lets you manage, edit, and share your digital photos. You can make automatic fixes in the enhanced Express Lab, or you can use the included advanced editing tools.



**Broderbund PrintMaster
Platinum**
\$39.99*
www.broderbund.com

Create projects such as photo greeting cards, scrapbook pages, family newsletters, and more with the templates and fonts included with PrintMaster Platinum. You can also edit photos before adding them to your projects.



Roxio Creator 2010
\$99.99*
www.roxio.com

Use Roxio Creator 2010 to easily capture, enhance, and save your photos, videos, and audio projects. Sharing is available using a variety of methods. It also includes tutorials for advanced users and beginners.

Audio/Video



**Pinnacle
Studio Ultimate
Collection**
\$129.99*
www.pinnaclesys.com

Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Collection comes with a full set of plug-ins and a Chroma-key green screen for advanced effects, editing, and production.



**Roxio Toast 10 Titanium
For Macs**
\$99.99*
www.roxio.com

Use Toast 10 Titanium to burn audio tracks, video clips, and other data to disc. You can also convert files for playback on other devices.



Cakewalk Music Creator 5
\$39.99*
www.cakewalk.com

A user-friendly interface lets you bring your music to life and give it a professional sound. You can record, transcribe, and print your very own music.



Apple Final Cut Express 4
\$199*
www.apple.com

A drag-and-drop interface provides seamless movement between editing, trimming, and adding effects to your videos. The software is compatible with popular HD formats, including HDV and AVCHD.

Business Applications



**Microsoft Office Home And
Student 2007**
\$149.95*
www.microsoft.com

The Home and Student version of Microsoft Office 2007 includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote, which perfectly meets basic computing needs.



**Adobe Acrobat 9
Standard (Upgrade)**
\$99*
www.adobe.com

Upgrade to Adobe Acrobat 9 Standard to easily create, combine, and manage various PDF files with improved features.



**Intuit Quicken
Home &
Business 2010**
\$99.99*
www.quicken.intuit.com

The 2010 version of Quicken Home and Business includes automatic bill reminders and a one-page view of your finances. Plus, it shows you where you are spending and where you can save.



Intuit QuickBooks Pro 2010
\$179.95*
www.quickbooks.intuit.com

Easily keep track of your company's finances with QuickBooks Pro 2010. You can organize and reference your customer, vendor, and employee financial information all in one place.

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Games/ Entertainment



Activision Barbie & The Three Musketeers

\$19.99*

www.activision.com

Choose a character with a unique ability to help you tackle obstacles and solve puzzles to uncover a plot against the prince and become a true musketeer.



Disney Interactive Studio Alice In Wonderland

\$19.99*

disney.go.com/disney

interactivestudios/
Inspired by the Tim Burton film, this game lets you fall down the rabbit hole and experience Alice's adventure in Wonderland. You can play as the Mad Hatter, White Rabbit, or another character from the film to help Alice on her journey.



Electronic Arts The Sims 3

\$49.95*

www.ea.com

Create your very own Sims. Customize their personalities, appearances, and homes and send them out into the world to explore the neighborhood and meet new friends.



Lego Indiana Jones 2: The Adventure Continues

\$29.99*

www.lucasarts.com

Explore the locations from all four films and build your own levels and environments. And, all of your favorite characters are depicted in Lego form.

Home Productivity



Nuance Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 Preferred

\$199*

www.nuance.com

Dictate emails, reports, and documents much faster than you can type by letting Dragon NaturallySpeaking do the typing for you. The software has an accuracy rate of up to 99%.



Apple MobileMe \$99*

www.apple.com

MobileMe, Apple's

Internet service, lets you keep your email, contacts, and calendar up-to-date across your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, and PC. It also lets you store and share documents online via iDisk, and you can manage everything online through a suite of Web applications at www.me.com.



DeLorme Street Atlas USA 2010 Plus

\$39.95*

www.delorme.com

Street Atlas USA 2010 Plus is updated with new roads and road names, and it's now ready to use on any of your favorite devices, such as GPSes, netbooks, computers, and smartphones.



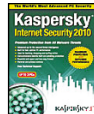
Susteen Data Pilot Backup & Sync Kit (LG)

\$24.99*

www.datapilot.com

Back up and sync your cell phone memory to your computer with a backup and sync kit. Kits for other phone manufacturers are also available.

Security/ Utilities



Kaspersky Lab Internet Security 2010

\$79.95*

www.kaspersky.com

Kaspersky Internet Security 2010 includes protection from the latest viruses, spyware, and malware threats.



Kaspersky Lab Anti- Virus 2010

\$59.95*

www.kaspersky.com

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 2010 includes essential protection against Internet threats, such as viruses, spyware, Trojans, and more as well as phishing and identity theft defense.



Webroot AntiVirus With Spy Sweeper 2010

\$39.95*

www.webroot.com

Protect up to three computers from viruses and spyware. Spy Sweeper stops both known and potential threats by blocking suspicious activity and is compatible with Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system.



Trend Micro AntiVirus + AntiSpyware

\$39.95*

www.trendmicro.com

Automatic scans, updates, and outbreak alerts make it easy to safeguard data and files. It protects against viruses, worms, spyware, and Trojan horses, keeping your personal data safe.

System Clean-Up & Repair



Avanquest Fix-It Utilities 10 Professional

\$49.95*

www.avanquest.com

Fix-It Utilities 10 Professional can make your computer run like new. It performs more than 250 tests to see what is slowing your computer down and then fixes the problem, giving you better performance.



iolo System Mechanic

\$49.95*

www.iolo.com

With System Mechanic, you can find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.



Acronis True Image Home 2010

\$49.99*

www.acronis.com

This software backs up your entire computer, including the operating system, files, settings, and more, so you can easily recreate your system in the event of data loss.



iolo DriveScrubber

\$29.95*

www.iolo.com

When it's time to get rid of your old computer, use DriveScrubber to ensure all of your personal data has been deleted. DriveScrubber will wipe your entire drive, including free space, and restore damaged drives.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

A computer is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what accessories you need to go along with that shiny new purchase. We've rounded up several of our favorite extras for every computer owner. Whether you have a laptop or desktop, be sure to add these items to your shopping list to complete your computing experience. **FG**



KEYBOARD

- An ergonomic design can cut down on the wrist strain associated with carpal tunnel syndrome
- Bluetooth connectivity lends itself to a tidy desk because there's one less wire to contend with
- A specialty model, such as a gaming or media keyboard, adds functionality to your pastime of choice



EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

- Protect precious video and photo memories: Back up to an external hard drive
- Keep your computer running more efficiently by saving large files, such as your media collection, on an external drive



CLEANING KIT

- Specially designed cleaners will keep your computer screen clean without running the risk of scratching its surface
- Cloths are often made of low-conductivity material in order to reduce static



PRINTER

- A quality photo printer will eliminate trips to the drugstore for 4x6 prints and give you the ability to instantly share your photo memories
- An all-in-one model is the perfect addition for any busy family that needs a device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax, and printer



USB HUB

- Offers an affordable way to connect all of your peripherals, even if you have more gadgets than USB ports
- Adds the convenience of easy USB access—no more reaching behind your computer to plug in your USB devices



MOUSE

- A wireless mouse will cut down on cable clutter at your desk and also offers the convenience of portability for laptop use
- A gaming mouse can deliver better accuracy and speed for the ultimate in control
- Consider customizable buttons if you want to be able to access media, files, or programs with one-touch access



SURGE PROTECTOR

- Ensure the electrical current running to your desktop or laptop computer doesn't exceed proper levels
- Portable models will protect your laptop when you're on the go for work or play



COMPUTING SERVICES

To keep your desktop or laptop computer in tip-top shape, take advantage of the computing services offered at your local CE retailer. They can help you keep your machine running smoothly and free from the dangers that lurk online.

- Computer Setup & Networking
- Virus & Spyware Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Hardware & Software Upgrades
- Training & Consultation



WEB CAM

- Bridge the gap between long-distance family and friends with online video chatting by adding a Web cam to your setup

TomTom's XL 350TM

Introducing Lifetime Traffic & Map Updates



hen we arrive at our destination is just as important as showing up in the first place, whether it's getting to the ball-

park in time for Jimmy to warm up before stepping up to the mound, showing up early to chat with an important client, or making it to class after sleeping through the alarm. When shopping for the perfect GPS for Mom, Dad, or a grad, TomTom (www.tomtom.com) has your bases covered. The latest devices feature highly accurate and up-to-date maps, intelligent routing capabilities, award-winning ease of use, and safety features. And now, you can enjoy all of the above for longer than you might think.

The Best, Even Better

TomTom's latest GPS, the XL 350TM (\$229), is designed with users in mind. Like the rest of TomTom's 2010 models, the XL 350TM includes a new simplified interface, which consists of a streamlined menu that displays the two most commonly used functions as large icons and the more in-depth feature icons across the bottom of the screen. The XL 350TM also features a 4.3-inch widescreen display so you can see more of the route you're driving.

Speaking of routes, TomTom has mapped 1 million more miles of roads than its competitors, which means that no matter where you need to go, your TomTom can help you get there.



TomTom
XL 350TM
\$229
www.tomtom.com

Find Your Way, For Good

TomTom's latest device also stands apart from the rest by including Lifetime Traffic Updates. This means that XL 350TM users will get traffic updates

every 2 to 5 minutes, and if there's a snarl ahead, they can easily reroute to avoid delay.

Another standard feature that makes the XL 350TM the traveler's best friend is the included Lifetime Map Updates, which gives users access to free map upgrades four times a year. This ensures that your GPS' maps are accurate, and you won't have to ditch your device just because your installed maps are too old.

Easy Goes It

Everybody knows that a GPS device is only as good as its features, and with Lifetime Map Updates and Lifetime Traffic Updates, the TomTom XL 350TM is the best option for travelers, commuters, and anybody else who needs to get from point A to Point B quickly and easily. **FG**

What You Should Know

- The TomTom XL 350TM has a 4.3-inch widescreen display and a more user-friendly interface.
- Lifetime Traffic Updates keep you from getting stuck in traffic
- Lifetime Map Updates let you keep your device accurate for as long as you own it.
- Free quarterly map updates included.

FirstGlimpse

HOW TO BUY

An Internet-Connected GPS

Go Beyond Navigation

In the virtual world of a traditional GPS, the world looks the same every day, or, at least, how it has looked since the maps were last updated. But in the real world, road names change and businesses move locations. If you want to be able to find the most up-to-date information on your GPS, you'll need an Internet-connected GPS, which is a model that's been programmed to reference online sources and provide current data using a 3G signal. Besides having the most current points of interest and street information, Internet-connected GPSes also offer a host of other features you'll want to consider when shopping.

Internet-Connected GPS Rundown

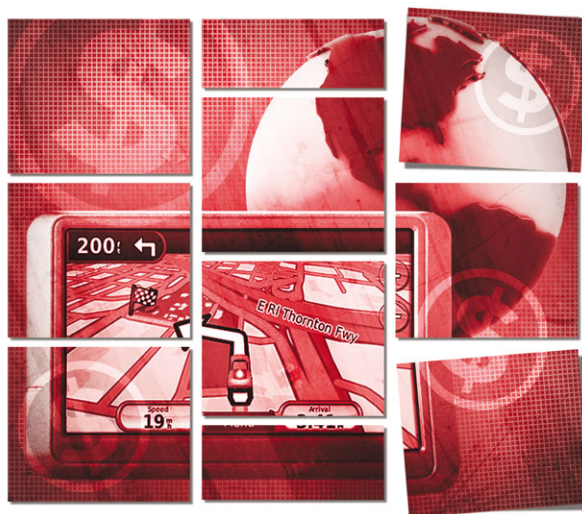
- Quickly discover key information about local businesses.
- Check scheduled events, such as movies and flights.
- Save money by finding the cheapest gas and avoiding traffic jams.
- Stay on top of changing weather conditions on the road.

Points Of Interest Plus

Nearly all Internet-connected GPSes use Google Local Search to let you find information about local businesses. For example, let's say you're traveling to a restaurant and decide you need to make a reservation. An Internet-connected GPS can use Google Local Search to provide you with the restaurant's phone number as well as its current address. Web features not found on every Internet-connected GPS include the ability to search for local events, such as a concert, or the ability to check movie times. Some models can also access flight information, so you can be sure that you're on time to pick up friends and family.

Save Some Money

Real-time gas prices are another common feature found on Internet-connected GPSes. Rather than pulling up to the next gas station you come across, you can have the GPS direct you to the station with the lowest price near your location. Some Internet-connected GPSes can also provide current traffic information, such as from Traffic.com, to help you avoid slow or congested routes. Thus, you'll save both time and money by avoiding car gridlock.



Stay In The Know

Some Internet-connected GPSes also have preprogrammed services to deliver information to you. For instance, a model that can provide forecasts and severe weather alerts will let you know what conditions you might experience while driving. Internet-connected models with an email address allow you to send custom points of interest, which you can save from Google Maps, to the GPS from your PC. A few Internet-connected GPSes can also display the location of (and provide directions to) friends and family via location sharing services, such as TomTom's Buddies or Garmin's Ciao!. Of course, you control when and to whom your location is delivered.

Now that you know what's available, look for an Internet-connected GPS that delivers the information you need when you're on the road. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

1,000 Chart-Topping Songs Without A Single Download

Give Mom A SanDisk Sansa Fuze Or Sansa Clip+ With slotRadio Cards

It would be so much faster to buy a group of songs at one time in a single place, rather than spend time downloading numerous songs to your computer and transferring them to your MP3 player. By supplying mom with a SanDisk slotRadio card this Mother's Day, she'll have a flash memory card that includes 1,000 full-length songs and can be slipped into the memory card slot of a SanDisk Sansa Fuze or Sansa Clip+ MP3 player. These cards (sold separately from each device) are an effortless way to enjoy music on the go.

Listen Up

- You can only listen to slotRadio cards on a Sansa Fuze or the Sansa Clip+.
- Each slotRadio card offers 1,000 full-length songs prearranged into seven different playlists, featuring Billboard's top artists.
- With slotRadio cards, you won't have to download anything to your computer, Sansa Fuze, or Sansa Clip+. You just slip the card into the device, and you're ready to enjoy the music.

slotRadio Cards



- Each ultra-portable card offers 1,000 full-length songs you can listen to in order or in seven prearranged playlists.
 - Cards feature Billboard chart artists and come in a variety of different genres, including oldies, '80s and '90s, rock, Latin, country, and R&B/hip hop.
 - slotRadio cards can only be played on the Sansa Fuze and Sansa Clip+.
 - Because the songs are stored on a flash memory card, you can keep the internal storage of your Sansa Fuze or Sansa Clip+ free for other media files.
- Coollest Feature.** One card has 1,000 songs from Billboard artists within a music genre. This eliminates the extra time needed to download music files to your PC, create playlists, and transfer them to your MP3 player.

Sansa Fuze MP3 Player



- 2GB (\$59.99), 4GB (\$69.99), and 8GB (\$89.99) models are available in blue, black, silver, and red.
 - Listen to music and audio books or view photos and videos on the 1.9-inch color screen.
 - Compatible with MP3, WMA, WAV, Overdrive Audio, and Audible audio files; MPEG-4 video; and JPEG images.
 - Enjoy digital FM radio as well as 40 radio station presets. Plus, record notes with the built-in microphone.
 - You can listen to music for up to 24 hours or watch up to five hours of video on a single battery charge.
- Coollest Feature.** The built-in microSD and microSDHC card slot supports flash memory cards, including SanDisk slotRadio cards.

Sansa Clip+ MP3 Player



- Capacities include 2GB (\$39.99) and 4GB (\$49.99) and are available in black, blue, and maroon.
 - View song, artist, and playlist information for your audio files on the OLED screen.
 - It offers 15 hours of audio playback, which is available through the rechargeable battery, and has a clip so it's easy to take with you anywhere.
 - Listen to FM radio thanks to the built-in tuner and access 40 preset radio stations. Additionally, you can record voice memos using the built-in microphone and voice recording feature.
 - Compatible with Windows 7.
- Coollest Feature.** The built-in microSD and microSDHC card slot supports SanDisk slotRadio cards.

Your Music, Your Way

The Flexibility Of Digital Music



Gratification doesn't get much more instant than this: You log in to your account at an online digital music store, pick the songs you want, check out, and within minutes they've downloaded to your computer.

What next? A portable player with earphones is the most traditional way to enjoy your music. For years now, it's been possible to pipe a vast collection of tens of thousands of songs directly from your pocket to your ears. But that's not the only path to get your music where you want it. Here are a few ways to expand your sonic horizons.

Accessorize. The huge accessory market can help you use your portable player in different ways, such as with an external speaker dock for the office desk, or in an armband sleeve so you can power your cardio workouts with a high-energy playlist.

Cell phones. Mobile phones often double as music players, so your pocket can travel lighter.

In the car. Many newer cars feature ports for connecting a portable player. If your car doesn't allow for a direct connection, look for an MP3 player accessory that sends the player's audio to the auto's sound system, such as a transmitter that

broadcasts the audio over the radio on an unused FM frequency.

Network sharing. With a good set of multimedia speakers, a retired computer can be reborn as a superb jukebox or media server. Multimedia player software comes standard with most computer operating systems, and if you don't like those options, plenty more are available online for free download. Whatever your preferred player is, poke around its less obvious features. You may find an option that lets you share playlists and libraries between computers linked across the same home network.

Home theater. With a set-top box that communicates with your computer—say, any Windows Media Extender device—you can stream music from

your PC and play it through your home-theater receiver. Also, some set-top boxes have a built-in hard drive or allow you to attach an external USB drive, so you can maintain a large music collection directly in your home-entertainment center.

File Formats & DRM

In an effort to combat file sharing between users, some digital music retailers have utilized DRM (Digital Rights Management), encoded restrictions that determine how you can use your music downloads. This might limit the number of computers you can authorize to play the music or the number of times you can burn a playlist to a CD.

Because of DRM's widespread unpopularity, by now the trend is toward loosening restrictions rather than tightening them. Most digital music retailers have either phased out DRM or never used it in the first place.

Right now, the most important thing to check at any digital music retailer you might shop from is that your downloads' formats are compatible with your player. For example, MP3s should play on most devices, while tracks from the iTunes Store are in AAC format, which isn't universally compatible with all hardware and software players. **FG**

BY BRIAN HODGE

Living Out Loud

- With portable players, accessories, and a little home-theater/network savvy, you can enjoy digital music anywhere and everywhere.
- DRM (Digital Rights Management) is no longer the hindrance it once was to playing your downloads wherever you want.
- If you're downloading files other than MP3s, make sure your music player is compatible with their formats.

MP3 Player Audio Systems

Dock & Play Anywhere You Like

If you think the selection of MP3 players has multiplied rapidly, you'll want to know about the profusion of audio systems that will enhance your MP3 player listening experience. By adding an MP3 player dock unit, you're no longer confined to the in-ear sounds coming from your earbuds or headphones.

Far Beyond The Boom Box

While MP3 player audio systems come in all shapes, sizes, and colors (mostly silver and black), the majority of them are portable enough to move to any room in your home or provide entertainment for your backyard grill-out. You'll find some as small as 6 inches, but others are large enough to be a slick centerpiece in your entertainment room. If you pay attention to design over function, look for one-of-a-kind styles and distinct characteristics, such as a cube shape, circular platform, or separated left and right speakers.

Numerous systems support old generations of MP3 players, but you'll also see dock units best-suited for some of the latest players with mobile phone capabilities and personalized applications. These types of dock stations automatically pause songs when you receive an incoming call on the phone. Clock radios can also be incorporated into

many alarm-based models. After listening to your MP3 player throughout the day, you can dock it in an alarm station and wake up to the same song you heard the previous night.

Features For Rockin' Out

One of the most convenient ways to use your MP3 player dock is via

Dock Features

- Some docks include a clock radio with an alarm so you can fall asleep and wake up to your MP3 player's music.
- A dock with a remote can be controlled from across the room.
- Other unique features include LED backlighting, motion-activated snooze, and additional subwoofers.



remote control. An included remote will allow you to control multiple functions—menu, pause, radio—from across the room. Some docking stations feature built-in LED backlighting so when you want to know the name of the song that is playing as you wake up from your nap, you can glance over to check its information. Also, take note of other unique features, including additional subwoofers and motion-activated snooze. These features help you match your MP3 player audio system to your daily activities.

Find Your Match

Before you make a buying decision, be sure to check the brand compatibility of your preferred MP3 audio system. You'll want to be able to immediately dock your MP3 player and start enjoying all the music you love. **FG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

Car Security Terminology

1-way remote operation—Refers to a remote start system that supports a single function, such as starting or unlocking your car.

2-way remote operation—A remote start system that allows for communication between the remote and the interior system, providing information regarding the car temperature, startup, and security features.

dome light supervision—Also known as dome light output, this turns on the overhead interior light when you disarm the car alarm.

dual-stage shock sensor—If a car is bumped, a dual-stage shock sensor will beep or vibrate to scare away car thieves. If it is bumped again, the sensor will sound an alarm.

extended range operation—Also known as extended remote range technology, this feature allows you to activate your alarm system beyond a standard range.

flashing parking lights—Lights that will flash any time your car alarm is armed, disarmed, or triggered.

glass break sensors—These devices will add an extra level of security to your vehicle with a sensor that detects the tampering with or breaking of your car's glass windows.

high-output siren—This car siren produces a powerful, clear sound that warns you of an intrusion or a security

system breach.

ignition-controlled locks—Automatic locks that prevent your car doors from being opened when you start the car or when you drive the car for a specified period of time.

illuminated entry—An overhead light that turns on when you open a vehicle's driver or passenger doors and stays on if the door is left ajar.

keyless entry—A keyless entry system allows you to lock and unlock your car by pressing a button on a keychain fob rather than with a key. This key fob might also include a panic button, horn honk, trunk release, or parking light flash.

LED status indicator—Some remotes include an LED (light-emitting diode) status indicator, which will use a small LED to indicate whether an alarm is armed or triggered.

motion sensors—To detect suspicious activity around and inside a vehicle, you can install a car motion sensor that will set off an alarm or dispatch an alert if any motion sensor zone is breached.

panic button—This button is typically located on a remote start or keyless entry key fob. If you're in a compromising position or feel threatened near your car, you can press this button and automatically set off your car alarm.



This is also handy if you forget where you parked.

remote outputs—You can use the remote outputs on your car remote control to do such things as roll up your power windows or open the trunk.

remote start—Using a wireless transmission, a remote start key fob lets you start your car's engine by pushing a button rather than using a key.

remote transmitter—A remote transmitter is the central hub for receiving commands from the remote starter.

remote trunk release—This will let you open your trunk by pushing a button rather than inserting the key or triggering the latch.

starter disable—If a car alarm has been triggered by a thief, the starter disable will prevent the perpetrator from turning on the engine.

transceiver—A combination of a transmitter and a receiver, a transceiver provides a way to communicate via radio.

FirstGlimpse

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

BLUETOOTH-ENABLED MP3 PLAYERS

Q What is Bluetooth?

A The Bluetooth specification is a wireless technology that connects devices via short-range radio frequencies. Bluetooth replaces the need to connect devices with cables.

Q What features are specific to Bluetooth technology?

A It can communicate through solid objects, such as walls, and devices don't require line-of-sight interaction.

Q How do I use Bluetooth connectivity on an MP3 player?

A To connect your MP3 player using Bluetooth, you'll activate the Bluetooth feature on the player, usually found in the device's settings. The device you're connecting it to must be Bluetooth-enabled and actively pairing with your MP3 player.

Q What does it mean when two Bluetooth-enabled devices are paired?

A To pair Bluetooth-enabled devices is to make them communicate with each other by creating a wireless connection. The two devices must swap a password after one device searches for another Bluetooth-enabled device.

Q What are the benefits of a Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player?

A You can connect your Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player to compatible wireless headphones, speaker systems, cell phones, and other devices to listen to music or transfer content without plugging in cords and manually syncing songs or other data.

Q Will my Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player connect to a speaker system?

A Yes, some models are compatible with speaker systems that support Bluetooth, so you can stream audio from your MP3 player and play it on the speakers.

Q How can I use my Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player in my car?

A You can pair your Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player with a compatible car stereo deck or a hands-free Bluetooth car kit. You can also attach a Bluetooth transmitter to your MP3 player (select models) and listen to songs through your car speakers.

Q How do Bluetooth-enabled MP3 players and mobile phones work together?

A A Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player can interact with a phone by letting you play music or video when the two devices are paired. Some models will even automatically pause the music when you receive a call.

Q How does a Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player differ from an MP3 player that features Wi-Fi connectivity?

A An MP3 player with Wi-Fi connectivity uses a wireless connection (provided by a hotspot or in-home network) to access the Internet. Bluetooth is primarily used for the data communication between devices.

Q What other devices can be used with my Bluetooth-enabled MP3 player?

A You can pair your MP3 player with compatible HDTVs, standalone radios, laptops, desktops, hands-free car kits, or noise-canceling headphones.



MP3 Player Glossary

W

ho doesn't want an MP3 player? It can help you relax, provide motivation, and keep you up-to-date on news. When you head to your local CE retailer to snag one, make sure you have this glossary so you can choose the perfect model.

AAC (Advanced Audio Codec)—An audio compression technology and the format used by iTunes.

Bluetooth—A short-range wireless standard that lets you connect your MP3 player to other devices, such as headphones, speakers, or your computer, without using a cord.

Click Wheel—Apple's proprietary circular control on the front of the iPod.

download—In terms of digital music, downloading is when you retrieve a song from an Internet site or another network connection and save it to your computer or digital music player. You'll download songs from music service Web sites such as iTunes, Napster, or Rhapsody.

DRM (Digital Rights Management)—A security mechanism for digital media. A common DRM scheme for digital music involves getting a license file to authorize playback of a free or purchased song.

earbuds—Small circular devices you put into your ears that serve the same function as headphones. Music players come with their own earbuds, but you can, of course, purchase a separate pair that is more comfortable or of better quality.

flash memory—Solid-state memory with no moving parts that is lightweight and small. In terms of digital music players, a flash-based player is lighter

and smaller than a hard drive-based player, and it also won't skip. Thus, flash-based players are popular for use during exercise. However, the capacity of a flash drive isn't as large as a hard drive-based player.

FM tuner—If built into your music player, an FM tuner lets you listen to local radio broadcasts.

hard drive—Storage that uses rigid platters inside a fixed casing. In terms of digital music players, a hard drive-based player is larger and heavier than a flash-based player. Because of the moving parts (the platters), hard drive-based players are prone to skipping, but capacities are larger than flash drive capacities.

iTunes—An application that loads onto your computer and lets you play, organize, and download and purchase music, videos, podcasts, and television shows for a portable media player or computer.

MP3—Perhaps the most popular digital audio encoding format. It compresses audio to about one-twelfth the original size while still providing excellent sound.

playlist—A queue of songs a user creates to play on a computer, burn to a CD, or transfer to an MP3 player. The playlist includes only directions to the location of the songs, not the actual songs.

podcast—A downloadable episode that is similar to a radio program. A



user can subscribe to a podcast for updated episodes, or she can download podcasts one at a time. A podcast is usually available in MP3 format.

screen—The display on the front of a portable music player. A player's screen can either display in color or black and white.

WMA—Windows Media Audio is a digital audio format created by Microsoft to compete with the MP3 format. WMA files are smaller than MP3 files.

widescreen—A screen that has an aspect ratio of 16:9.

Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?









iPods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players.

		Memory type	Capacity	Songs	Video; FM tuner capabilities	Colors	Battery life
	What It Means	Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has	Based on four-minute songs at 128Kbps, the number a player can hold	Some MP3 players can play video or let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
	SanDisk Sansa Clip+ MSRP: \$39.99*; \$49.99* SKU 9448564	Flash	2GB; 4GB	500; 1,000	No; Yes	Black, red, blue	15 hours
	Apple iPod shuffle MSRP: \$59*; \$79* SKU 9229765	Flash	2GB; 4GB	500; 1,000 (AAC)	Neither	Black, silver, pink, green, blue	10 hours
	SanDisk Sansa Fuze MSRP: \$69.99*; \$79.99*; \$99.99* SKU 8753789	Flash	2GB; 4GB; 8GB	500; 1,000; 2,000	Both	Black, blue, red, silver	24 hours
	Sony W Series Walkman MSRP: \$69.99* SKU 9667433	Flash	2GB	N/A	Neither	Black	12 hours
	Sony E Series Walkman MSRP: \$79.95* SKU 9443792	Flash	8GB	N/A	Both	Black	30 hours
	Apple iPod nano MSRP: \$149*; \$179* SKU 9416376	Flash	8GB; 16GB	2,000; 4,000 (AAC)	Both	Pink, orange, green, blue, purple, black, silver	24 hours
	Apple iPod touch MSRP: \$199*; \$299*; \$399* SKU 8771732	Flash	8GB; 32GB; 64GB	1,750; 7,000; 14,000 (AAC)	Yes; No	Black	30 hours
	Microsoft Zune HD MSRP: \$219.99*; \$289.99* SKU 9449581	Flash	16GB; 32GB	4,000; 8,000	Both	Black, silver	33 hours

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

		Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to-speech; Traffic receiver	Preloaded maps	WAAS	Bluetooth; MP3 playback	Included charging adapters
	What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth	Unit calls out specific street names; Unit receives traffic updates and re-routes accordingly	The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit	A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy	Some units communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
	Insignia NS-NAV01 MSRP: \$99.99* SKU 9351603	4.3 inches; 3.1x4.7x0.6 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S.	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	Magellan RoadMate 1220 MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 9275839	3.5 inches; 3.1x3.7x0.7 inches	Yes; Yes (with optional traffic receiver)	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	TomTom XL 340-S MSRP: \$169.95* SKU 9263209	4.3 inches; 3.2x4.7x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes (with optional traffic receiver)	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	No; No	DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 255W MSRP: \$179.99* SKU 9252872	4.3 inches; 2.9x4.8x0.8 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; No	DC adapter
	Magellan RoadMate 1445T MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9536424	4.3 inches; 4.6x3.3x0.7 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	Insignia NS-CNV20 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 8947312	4.3 inches; 3.2x4x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S.	Yes	Yes; No	DC adapter; AC adapter
	TomTom XL 350TM MSRP: \$229* SKU N/A	4.3 inches; 3.2x4.7x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes (with optional traffic receiver)	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; No	DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 1690 MSRP: \$449.99* SKU 9539298	4.3 inches; 3.1x4.9x0.8 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	Yes; No	DC adapter

See p. 60

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

No matter where you go, a wireless device can add enjoyment to your journey. To make sure you are taking full advantage of the capabilities your wireless devices offer, check your local CE retailer for accessories that can enhance your mobile experiences. We've listed our favorites below. **FC**



GPS CHARGERS

- Make sure your travel companion always has a full battery
- If you do run out of battery, charge your GPS with an adapter; these can plug into a wall, PC, or car's DC outlet



MP3 PLAYER EARPHONES

- Match earphones to your needs: If you don't want anything bulky, opt for earbuds that fit inside your ear; to hear every musical detail, try headphones that cover the ear completely
- Listen to your music without the interference of background noise with earphones that offer a noise-canceling feature



MP3 PLAYER DOCKS & SPEAKERS

- Portable speakers let you play music for a group; some include radios and can also play CDs
- With a portable dock, you can recharge your player's battery as you listen to music
- Play your music through car speakers using an FM transmitter



CELL PHONE HEADSETS

- Keep your hands free while still being able to use your phone
- Link compatible cell phones to a Bluetooth headset to make or take calls without a tangled mess of cables
- Use a headset that offers noise-canceling capabilities to ensure you don't miss any of your conversation



MP3 PLAYER CASES

- Protect your MP3 player from bumps and scratches
- Quickly access your player's functions with a clip
- Keep your player out of your way with an armband



CELL PHONE CHARGERS & BATTERIES

- Keep your phone charged no matter where you are; adapters for your cell phone let you use solar power, your car's DC outlet, wall power, or your computer to charge your phone
- Be prepared for emergencies with extra cell phone batteries



CELL PHONE CASES

- Safeguard your phone from wear and tear with a case
- Universal cases fit most sizes of cell phones; some of these will include clips and wrist straps for portability and accessibility
- Fitted cases specifically fit your phone's model type; these can be hard acrylic casings, rubber sleeves, or leather pouches
- Avoid getting scratches and fingerprints on your phone's screen with stick-on or hard, clear screen protectors



MOBILE SERVICES

- Whether your wireless device is brand-new or nearing the end of its life span, your local CE retailer offers services to help you take care of all of your wireless device's needs.
- Protection plans for GPSes, MP3 players, and cell phones
 - Phone and battery recycling
 - GPS setup and deck installation
 - MP3 vehicle integration
 - MP3 player setup and training
 - Cell phone repair services and loaner phones



GPS MOUNTS

- Mounts can be placed on a car dash or stuck to a windshield to be within reach

HOW TO BUY _____ A Portable Gaming Console

More Than Just For Gaming

How much fun can you fit in the palm of your hand? More and more all the time, thanks to portable gaming consoles. There are different kinds of portable gaming consoles available, each with a variety of features to suit you.

For Adults, For Kids, For Little Kids

There are portable gaming consoles and game titles for every age group. Although most are age-generic, some are designed specifically as educational and entertainment tools for very young children. Other platforms are designed to run a host of titles, from kid-friendly games to intense games that may be suitable for adults and teens only.

Game Types

Before you buy a portable gaming console, consider how you'll want to acquire games for it. Some use small cartridges or discs, while others require you to download games. Additionally, if you plan on gaming online with the device, make sure you get one with Wi-Fi capabilities.

Outside The Box

It'd be shortsighted to think of portable gaming consoles as strictly video game players; many consoles have a host of

additional features, such as the ability to connect the gaming console to a stationary console or home media center via USB cable.

Additionally, a console with Wi-Fi capabilities allows you to use the device to check your email, browse the Web, IM, or even play multiplayer games online. With Wi-Fi, you can also stream online audio and video, depending on the console.

Some portable gaming consoles have fun extras such as cameras, microphones, and memory card slots, so you

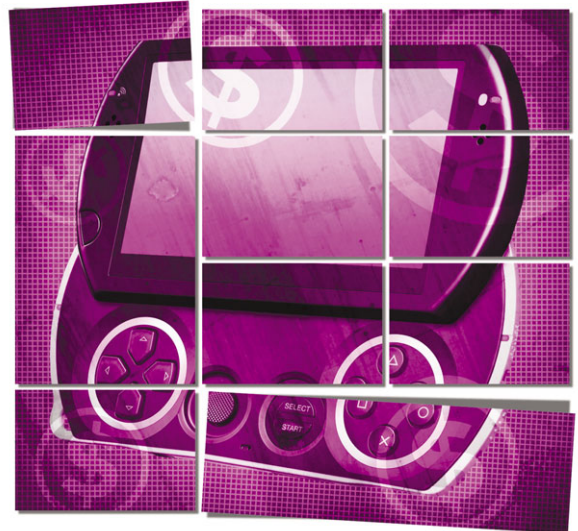
can snap and edit photos or record your voice and share with others by plugging the memory card into another device, such as a PC. Others let you use a memory card to add music to your console, so you can listen to your favorite tunes while blasting aliens.

Accessories

Like any mobile device, a portable gaming console begs for cool accessories. An indispensable one is a set of headphones, which let you enjoy high-quality, immersive audio without disturbing others.

It's also a good idea to stash your portable gaming console and any discs or cartridges in a carrying case. Not only will a carrying case keep your device and games protected and organized, it's also a good way to bring along a few important extras such as an AC adapter or car charger. **FG**

BY SETH COLANER



Game Anywhere

- There are portable gaming consoles and titles for adults, older kids, and very young children, or all of the above.
- Many portable gaming consoles have additional features such as Wi-Fi, a camera, a microphone, and a memory card slot.
- Don't forget accessories to protect your device and keep you organized and powered when out and about.

A More Entertaining Game Console

Why You Should Connect To The Web

Y

our game console can do so much more than just play video games when it's connected to the Internet. For example, a connected game console can stream music and

video to your home-theater system from either online services or networked computers. Here, we'll cover a slew of other advantages you'll experience.

Downloads

From video game classics to recently released titles, you can rent or buy games from a console's built-in online marketplace and store the downloads on its internal hard drive. Renting or buying games online is great for those who want new games but live far away from a brick-and-mortar store. Plus, downloadable demos are available to help you decide if you want to play a new game.

An Internet connection also lets you download updates and add-ons for your existing video games, so you can enjoy the newest content.

Meet & Greet

Looking for a challenging match? Connected game consoles let you play against or with others from across the world, and you can join multiplayer games any time of the day. Additionally, most game consoles allow you to voice chat or instant message your teammates over the Web, so you can talk with friends and get to



know other players. Some consoles can even analyze your skill level at a given game and match you with an opponent of a similar skill level, which is great if you want a competitive contest.

Streaming

If you want to watch movies and TV shows, game consoles can stream content from Netflix. You may also be able

to rent or buy movies from the online marketplace built into the console's interface. Some consoles also feature an integrated Web browser that you can use to play music from Internet radio stations. Depending on the console, you might also be able to access and play the video, music, and images stored on your computer, which is ideal for people who want to watch PC content on their home theater.

Why Web Access

With an Internet-connected game console, you can:

- Compete with friends and join multiplayer games for greater challenges.
- Download games, updates, and demos to your console's internal storage.
- Stream movies, TV shows, music, and photos to your home theater.

Setup & Installation

Current game consoles connect to your home network via a wired or wireless connection. Some consoles integrate Wi-Fi connectivity, while others may require you to purchase a Wi-Fi adapter. If you opt for a wired connection, you'll need to run an Ethernet cable from your router to the game console. For a wireless connection, access your game console's settings, select the Internet or Network section, and enter your Wi-Fi authentication information. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

Eco-Friendly Products

Everyday Sustainability



As more and more companies launch green initiatives, you can't help but take notice of the way eco-friendly innovations are changing the way products are manufactured. Because this revolution will alter our lives in a very practical way, it's important that we become more familiar with the earth-friendly packaging, products, and technologies available.

Green Packaging

In order to decrease resource-sapping packaging, many manufacturers are focusing on cutting back on the quantity of materials used to wrap and store electronics. Some companies are removing outer sleeves, printing documents on recycled paper, and eliminating extras such as unnecessary bags. Some are even reducing the size of the product box or changing materials to recycled content.

E-waste is also a concern, because products such as monitors and cell phones can contain lead, mercury, and other harmful materials. To properly dispose of items that include these substances, you'll need to recycle them at your local CE retail store or another recycling facility with an e-waste program.

Energy Efficiency

To ensure that consumer electronics are meeting national eco-friendly standards, Energy Star (www.energystar.gov), a program supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, develops specifications for products in different

categories to determine which are the most efficient in regard to how well they use energy, save money, and protect the environment. Products that meet these specifications are Energy Star-qualified.

For instance, laptop and desktop computers must meet Energy Star's power management standards in order to be qualified, which require the computer's components (hard drive, CPU, and others) to move into a hibernate or sleep mode when they aren't in active use. In addition, printers must feature proper imaging equipment, cooled operation, and upgraded specifications.

In an effort to reduce energy consumption, other consumer electronics, including LCD and flat-screen TVs, are certified by Energy Star. Products that meet these standards use roughly 30% less energy than models that don't meet them.

Energy Star-certified products will not only help you save money on utility bills, but the reduction in energy consumption will also benefit the environment.



To guarantee that you're purchasing an Energy Star-qualified product, be sure to look for a label located on the exterior packaging.

Solar Power

Solar panels aren't just for the roof of your house. Now, solar-powered electronics and accessories are produced with eco-conscious features, designed to harness the power of the sun. Laptop cases, Bluetooth car kits, and radios with built-in solar panels stay charged via the sun's energy or charge other devices connected to them.

Green Is For Go

Because you're in the know on the latest green technologies and advancements, it's time to do your part. Next time you step into your local CE retailer, be aware of how you can contribute to a greener world so you can walk out the door with eco-friendly products. **FG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

In-Store Recycling

Electronics that are beyond repair or are no longer compatible with your current components don't serve a purpose around your home, other than taking up space. If you're ready to be rid of these obsolete items, including DVD players, cell phones, and computers, pack them up and transport them to your nearest CE store, where they can be safely recycled. Some stores will charge a small recycling fee for submitting items with screens, such as TVs and CRT monitors, but they'll supplement that charge with store credit. ●

FirstGlimpse

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

GAMING FURNITURE

Q What special features does a gaming chair have?

A Gaming chairs are designed to provide comfort for long gaming sessions and may have built-in speakers, Wi-Fi support, and responsive vibration motors that can enhance your gameplay.

Q How will a gaming chair keep me comfortable throughout a lengthy gaming session?

A In addition to having armrests, headrests, and an oversized design, these chairs offer ergonomic features and let you recline while you play video games.

Q What are the benefits of built-in chair speakers?

A Gaming chairs with built-in speakers will immerse you in the sound of your game, so you will feel as though you're in the middle of all the action. And to ensure you get the audio experience that best fits your needs, some chairs with built-in speakers will let you adjust the volume, bass, and treble.

Q What does it mean when a gaming chair has wired and wireless capabilities?

A This means the chair can connect to your game console with cords or via your wireless home network.

Q What devices can I connect a gaming chair to?

A You can connect a gaming chair to your game console, so it works with your built-in speakers and sound-responsive

vibration motors. Additionally, it complements audio and video devices, such as headphones. Some chairs can connect to computers and other gaming chairs.

Q What are sound-responsive vibration motors?

A When a gaming chair is connected to a gaming console, these motors vibrate in response to particular actions made in a game. For example, a racing game might vibrate when you drive onto a grassy knoll or hit a building. This feature will make you feel as though you're a part of the action.

Q Do gaming chairs offer any storage space?

A Yes. Many have pockets for gaming accessories, such as controllers and headphones.

Q What other types of furniture are beneficial for a gamer?

A A gamer can never have enough storage for her games and accessories. Ottomans that double as storage boxes, shelving units, and media towers are great for keeping game clutter hidden in a home theater.

Q Are there portable gaming chairs that are easy to transport?

A Yes. Many gaming chairs can fold up, so you can put it in your car to head over to a friend's house or stow it away when it's not in use. Plus, many of these chairs have handles, making them easy to pick up and move.



This Month's Blu-ray Disc Releases

Invictus



Rating: PG-13 | Format: Blu-ray Disc | MSRP: \$35.99* | SKU: 9902568

Release Date: 5/18/2010

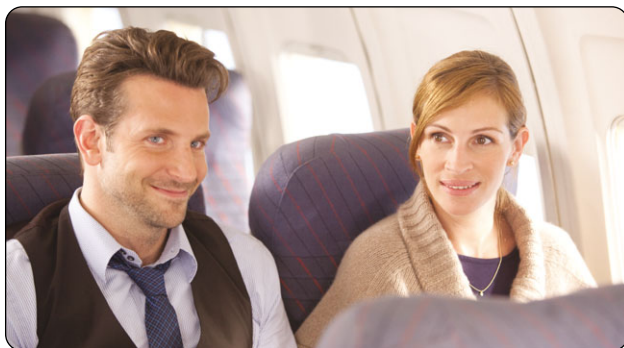


Valentine's Day



Rating: PG-13 | Format: Blu-ray Disc | MSRP: \$29.99* | SKU: 9867826

Release Date: 5/18/2010



Tooth Fairy



Rating: PG | Format: Blu-ray Disc | MSRP: \$29.99* | SKU: 9895558

Release Date: 5/4/2010



	Date	MSRP*	SKU	Rating
May				
2012: Doomsday	5/18	\$11.98	18494525	N/A
30,000 Leagues Under The Sea	5/18	\$11.98	18489511	N/A
American Bandits	5/18	\$24.98	18443559	N/A
Celine: Through The Eyes Of The World	5/11	\$29.98	9859772	N/A
Clamp	5/4	\$24.99	9878537	PG
Daybreakers	5/11	\$24.95	9841212	R
Dear John	5/25	\$34.95	9877853	PG-13
Dirty Dancing	5/4	\$29.99	9841337	PG-13
Django	5/25	\$29.95	18499105	N/A
Doctor Zhivago	5/4	\$29.99	9820662	PG-13
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog	5/25	\$19.95	18454316	N/A
Dragonquest	5/18	\$11.98	18489539	PG-13
Edge Of Darkness	5/11	\$29.99	9902629	R
Elektra	5/4	\$29.99	18458612	PG-13
Escape From L.A.	5/4	\$29.99	9434301	R
Extraordinary Measures	5/18	\$34.95	9877835	PG
Hamlet	5/4	\$24.99	18457786	N/A
High Anxiety	5/11	\$24.99	18458215	PG
History Of The World: Part I	5/11	\$24.99	18458588	R
Invictus	5/18	\$35.99	9902568	PG-13
It Waits	5/25	\$14.99	9903054	N/A
K-11: The Widowmaker	5/4	\$29.99	9434383	PG-13
Leap Year	5/4	\$29.99	9840198	PG
Legion	5/11	\$24.99	9877817	R
Living Landscapes: American Landscapes	5/11	\$33.98	18527515	N/A
Living Landscapes: Nature's Majesty	5/11	\$29.99	18527524	N/A
M	5/11	\$39.95	18481389	N/A
Midnight Movie	5/4	\$29.99	18403813	R
Nine	5/4	\$29.99	9877844	N/A
Pep Squad	5/25	\$19.95	18498919	N/A
Preacher's Kid	5/4	\$35.99	9902522	PG-13
Robin Hood: Men In Tights	5/11	\$24.99	18458621	PG-13
Rock 'n' Roll High School	5/11	\$26.97	18440534	PG
Samurai Princess	5/11	\$24.98	18464049	N/A
Saving Private Ryan	5/4	\$29.99	9846553	R
Seven Swords	5/25	\$19.97	9841973	N/A
Someone's Knocking At The Door	5/25	\$29.99	18500402	N/A
Stagecoach	5/25	\$29.99	9893693	N/A
Tetro	5/4	\$39.99	9842248	R
The Dukes	5/4	\$24.98	18443498	PG-13
The Edge	5/11	\$24.99	18458181	R
The Giant Panda	5/11	\$20.98	18526164	N/A
The Karate Kid	5/11	\$19.99	9906843	PG
The Karate Kid: Part II	5/11	\$24.95	18525535	PG
The Messenger	5/18	\$34.99	9878519	R
The New Daughter	5/18	\$34.98	9841391	PG-13
The Notebook	5/4	\$19.98	18482245	PG-13
The Road	5/25	\$24.99	9877917	R
The Shortcut	5/25	\$14.99	9903036	PG-13
Tooth Fairy	5/4	\$29.99	9895558	PG
True Blood: Season 2	5/25	\$79.98	9658205	MA
Valentine's Day	5/18	\$29.99	9867826	PG-13
Visions Of Nature: Timescapes	5/4	\$24.98	18471625	N/A
Walkabout	5/18	\$29.99	9893702	N/A
White Wall	5/25	\$24.98	18464119	N/A

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Gaming System Is Best For You?

Game consoles and portable devices are no longer limited to gameplay. They can also access the Internet, download media, and play your favorite DVDs or CDs. To help you find a gaming device that will suit you well, here's a comparison of the most popular selections you can find at your local CE retailer.

		Hard drive size	Compatible memory cards	Optical drive	Video resolution output	Ports	
	What It Means	How much data the system can hold	Cards that will let you save and off-load data, such as game saves or personal media	Aside from game discs, other play-able media formats	Highest number of video pixels that are sent to a TV or portable console screen	Hookups for controllers as well as video and audio outputs	
Console Devices		Sony PlayStation 3 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9611611	250GB 2.5-inch Serial ATA	PlayStation and PlayStation 2 cards with optional USB memory card adapter	CD, DVD, BD	1,920 x 1,080	1 A/V, 1 Ethernet, 1 HDMI, 1 optical digital audio, 2 USB
		Nintendo Wii MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 8008559	512MB	SD/Nintendo GameCube Memory Card	Can only play game titles	720 x 480	4 controller, 1 Component, 1 Composite, 1 S-Video, 2 USB
		Microsoft Xbox 360 Elite MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9460763	120GB	Xbox 360 Memory Unit	CD-RW, DVD-RW, and more	1,920 x 1,080	1 A/V, 1 Ethernet, 2 memory, 1 HDMI, 3 USB
Portable Devices		Nintendo DSi MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9249725 (blue)	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
		Nintendo DSi XL MSRP: \$189.99* SKU 9760166	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
		Sony PSP go MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 9459659	16GB flash memory	Memory Stick Micro	None; download to internal and removable memory only	480 x 272	1 USB, 1 headphone
		Sony PlayStation Portable 3000 MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9175082	64MB	Memory Stick Duo	UMD (Universal Media Disc)	480 x 272	1 video out/headset, 1 USB, 1 DC out

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

	Online community	Wi-Fi access; Media streaming	Parental controls	Compatible game formats	Included accessories & services	Available accessories	Controllers	Perfect for
	Web site membership for downloads, upgrades, and more	Access the Internet without a cable hookup; Send and receive media wirelessly	Help parents decide what content their kids can or cannot access	Game titles that can be played on the game system	Accessories included with the console	Extras that can help enhance your gameplay	Included controllers; wired/wire-less controller compatibility	Who can benefit from the special features the gaming system offers
	Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b/g; Yes	Included; Options available for PS3 games, BDs, DVDs, and Internet	Sony PlayStation 3 titles and select PlayStation titles	DualShock 3 wireless controller, USB cable, PlayStation Network membership, A/V cable	Blu-ray remote, Bluetooth headset, memory card adapter, wireless keypad, cables	Includes 1 DualShock 3 wireless controller; wireless	Someone who wants the value of a full gaming system with a BD player and media streaming
	Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes, 802.11b/g; Netflix streaming	Included; Options available for Wii titles, online features and downloads, and more	Nintendo GameCube and Wii titles	Wii remote and nunchuck, sensor bar, Wii Sports game, console stand, A/V cable, adapter	Wireless Wii remote, wheel, classic (wired) controllers, wireless sensor bar	Includes 1 wireless Wii remote and nunchuck; Both (some titles require a wired remote)	Gamers of any age who want a unique wireless gaming experience that requires little gaming knowledge
	Yes; free Silver membership to Xbox Live and free Gold membership for one month	Available with optional networking adapter accessory; Yes	Included; Options available for Xbox Elite console and Xbox Live	All Xbox 360 games and more than 300 Xbox games	Wireless controller, headset, A/V cable, network cable, Netflix trial	HDMI cable, Xbox 360 hard drive, universal media remote, networking adapter	Includes 1 wireless controller; wireless	Those who want to play games in HD with full theatrical sound and need a console with plenty of hard drive space
	Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes; Yes	Included; Options available for Nintendo DSi content	Nintendo DSi and Nintendo DS titles	AC adapter, 2 styli	Audio headset, battery power pack, screen protectors, carrying cases, styli	N/A	Users who want a handheld gaming system that lets them take, personalize, and share photos
	Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes; Yes	Included; Options available for DSi software, DSi Browser, DSi Shop, and more	N/A	Rechargeable battery, AC adapter, stylus, and four preinstalled titles	Cases, adapters, headphones, full-size stylus	N/A	Those who want a handheld gaming system with a large screen, better-suited for social gaming
	Yes, PlayStation Network	Yes, 802.11b; Yes	Included	Available for download from PlayStation store	AC adapter, USB cable, Media Go software, Rock Band Unplugged Lite voucher	Protective screen film, cradle, headphones, memory cards, cases	N/A	Those who need a bigger screen for their gaming, Internet, and media entertainment
	Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b; No	Included; Options available for UMDs, Internet, and video downloads	PlayStation Portable titles	AC adapter, AC power cord, battery pack, video rental through PlayStation Network	Battery charger, travel case, memory cards, A/V cable, AC adapter, car adapter	N/A	Those who want to enjoy gaming as well as movies, photos, and music when they're on the go

Car Stereo

Control Pandora From Your Car's Dash



iDA-X305S Digital Media Receiver with Pandora® Internet Radio Control

MSRP: \$349.99

SKU: 9764435

www.alpine-usa.com

Quick Overview

Alpine's iDA-X305S controls Pandora from your dash. Use it with the iPhone® and the free PandoraLink for Alpine App (from the App Store) to personalize your Pandora stations. Press and turn the iDA-X305S' knob ring to the right to rate a song a thumbs-up, indicating positive feedback, or to the left for a thumbs-down. Even bookmark songs for later purchase. Everything is done from the iDA-X305S, so there's no fumbling with your iPhone while driving.

Perfect For

iPhone owners who want a personalized listening experience in the car.

Outstanding Benefits

- 2.2-inch color TFT screen
- Pandora thumbs-up/down rating from the dash
- Pandora song bookmarking from the dash
- Artist, song title, and album art displayed on the screen
- Digital USB connection for superb sound from the iPhone or iPod®
- Connectivity to other USB memory devices, MTP-compatible portable MP3 players
- QuickSearch™ for fast and logical access to large iPod playlists
- Meets "Made for iPod®" and "Works with iPhone™" specifications
- Blue or red color scheme for display and button illumination

Cooliest Feature

Control and personalize your Pandora stations from your dash, without having to access your iPhone while driving.

ESRB Game Ratings & Descriptions

Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB (www.esrb.org) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



Early Childhood. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages three and older. These software titles

contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.



Everyone. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages six and older. Games in this category may contain min-

imal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language.



Everyone 10+. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 10 and older.

Games in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and language as well as minimal suggestive themes.



Teen. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violence,

suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language.



Mature. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Games in this category may con-

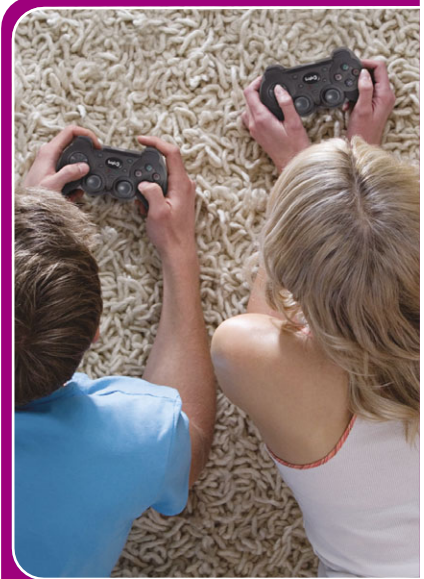
tain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language.



Adults Only. Titles with this rating have content that is only suitable for persons 18 years and older. Games in this category may include

prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity.

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.



Gaming Tips For Parents

Aside from checking a game's ESRB rating, there are other ways you can ensure the games your youngsters are playing are age appropriate.

- Carefully look at everything on a title's packaging, including the game graphics.
- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use the game's parental controls to restrict inappropriate content.
- Learn about games by talking to other parents and older children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.
- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware of nonrated ESRB material a game may contain. "Mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content, and on-line games often have live player chats as well as other user-generated content.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

The gaming experience goes beyond the game itself—you need the right console peripherals and the best just-in-case services. We've compiled a list of some of the must-have accessories that will only enhance your gameplay, so be sure to remember these items on the next trip to your local CE retailer. **FC**



RACING WHEELS

- A gaming steering wheel puts you in the driver's seat of a virtual race
- A comfortable, accurate wheel will give you more control with turns, braking, and acceleration
- Be sure to purchase a racing wheel that's compatible with your specific gaming console



USB DEVICES

- A USB media hub will let you connect other USB devices (including MP3 players and portable gaming devices) to your game console
- Use a USB rechargeable battery pack to charge the Li-Ion battery for guitar controllers



GAMING KEYBOARD

- Adding a keyboard can help game efficiency—type in text codes and chat with other players quickly
- Look for a model with a touchpad so you can easily scroll around the game display
- Models that offer hotkeys will enable you to quickly perform tasks, such as gameplay actions



MUSIC CONTROLLER ACCESSORIES

- Add a heavy-duty bass pedal to your gaming drum set to replace your standard pedal
- A tripod microphone stand will make your song-based games more true-to-life
- Extra cymbals for your rock drum kit will give you more freedom to express musical ability



EXTERNAL MEMORY

- External hard drives, USB drives, or memory cards back up your in-progress games
- When additional memory is connected to live (on-line) games, you can save gaming content and downloads
- The more memory you have, the more games and downloads you'll be able to store



HEADSETS

- Use a hands-free headset to enhance your gaming experience by planning strategies aloud with your team
- A Bluetooth 2.0 headset is designed to communicate with your gaming console; Bluetooth headsets will be compatible with most game consoles
- Consider noise-canceling headsets with echo-minimizing microphones so you can hear and be heard clearly



WIRELESS CONTROLLER

- Bluetooth technology lets you play while also having the freedom to move around
- Some controllers use traditional AAA batteries to sustain your playing time
- Find the best design for your grip: ergonomic or traditional



GAMING SERVICES

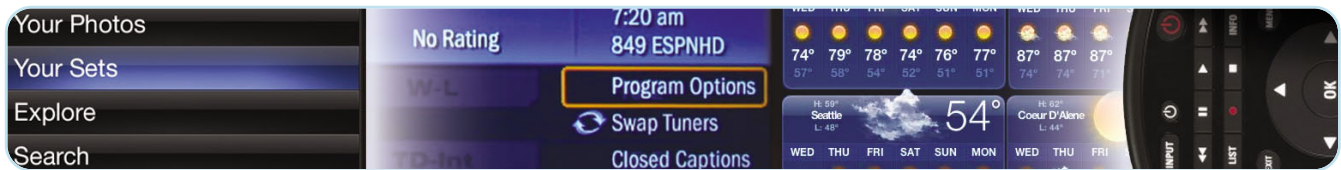
Your local CE retailer provides some helpful services, both in-home and in-store, to enhance your gaming console. Specifically, the professionals can set up online connections, install system updates, and transfer data to a gaming storage device.

- Configure online accounts
- Console system updates
- Stream media from a PC to a gaming console
- Connect a console to a home-theater system

A Peek At The Digital Future

HDTVs

THAT CAN ACCESS ONLINE SERVICES



Until recently, when purchasing an HDTV, the top features to look for were almost always related to picture quality, such as a brighter picture or a higher resolution. But the availability of Internet-connected HDTVs might transform the features you want in an HDTV. For example, an Internet-connected HDTV can provide on-screen, one-touch access to news feeds, online video, and social networking content. In short, your TV will no longer be just a set that lets you watch video; it'll be an interactive device you can use to enjoy Web-based content. Here, we'll tell you about the benefits that Internet-connected TVs currently offer.

Just A Widget Away

Internet-connected TVs feature built-in applications, called widgets, that give you the ability to access popular Web services, news feeds, and online media. Features such as weather forecasts from Yahoo! Weather, sports scores and stories from *USA Today Sports*, or photos from Flickr can be loaded and controlled using your

HDTV's remote. Widgets will come pre-installed on the TV, and when they are turned on, they are typically superimposed over live TV programming. With video widgets, such as YouTube videos or Yahoo! Video, the HDTV will display a fullscreen window where you can search a list of clips and watch the video in a small window or in fullscreen mode.

How It Works

To access the Internet, the HDTV will feature an Ethernet port or an optional Wi-Fi USB dongle that plugs into a USB port for wireless connectivity. If an HDTV only connects to the Internet via a wired connection, Ethernet cable must run from an Internet router to the HDTV. Once the HDTV is connected to the Internet, you can click the widget button on the TV's remote and use the arrow buttons to select a Web service, such as Twitter or Yahoo! Finance, you want to see. Similar to viewing a Web site, you'll receive the latest news, videos, and features common to that particular Web service. For example, the Yahoo! Sports widget will deliver the top stories and breaking news from the world of sports.

What's Available?

Many first-generation Internet-connected HDTVs feature Yahoo! Connected TV, which is a feature that offers a wide variety of Web options. If you want to watch online video, Yahoo! Connected TV offers a CBS Entertainment widget for access to popular shows on CBS; a Yahoo! Video widget for news, sports, and home videos; and access to a few subscription-based movie providers. You can also interact with friends using Connected TV features such as Twitter, Flickr, and MySpace. To get up-to-speed on current events, you can access Yahoo! News, Yahoo! Finance, Yahoo! Weather, *The New York Times*, *USA Today Sports*, and CBS Sports widgets. HDTV manufacturers may also feature widgets from third-party companies, such as Amazon Video On Demand, Slacker Radio, or *Sports Illustrated*. In the near future, you may have access to online movie rentals, so you can instantly download and watch films or TV shows.

Benefits

With the ability to watch stocks, keep tabs on your favorite sports team, view movies or Web videos, and communicate

A Peek At The Digital Future

with family and friends, Internet-connected HDTVs provide lots of information with the command of your HDTV's remote control. And, for a truly personalized experience, many of the built-in widgets can be customized to fit your interests. For example, the Yahoo! Finance widget will let you access your Yahoo! portfolio, as well as get stock quotes, business news, and market updates. Or, with the eBay

widget, you can retrieve real-time auction updates, place auction bids, or compare product prices just by using your TV's remote control.

People who can't get enough of social networking will appreciate the ability to keep up with friends' updates via Twitter or MySpace without consulting a PC or smartphone as they watch television. And if you or your friends

frequently post photos on Flickr, you'll be able to view their latest photography on a large, high-resolution TV screen. So if you're looking for an HDTV that goes beyond the typical entertainment experience, an HDTV with Internet connectivity is certainly worth considering. **PG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

Samsung's UN55C6500 LED HDTV

One Internet-connected set is the UN55C6500 from Samsung (\$2,799.99; www.samsung.com), which delivers a suite of widgets with its Internet@TV. YouTube, Twitter, Flickr, and nearly all of the Yahoo! widgets we mentioned are featured in Samsung's Internet@TV, but third-party game widgets are also included, such as Sudoku, Texas Hold'em Poker, and QuizzMaster (a general knowledge quiz game). With so many options to choose from, you can select



Samsung's UN55C6500 LED HDTV
\$2,799.99
www.samsung.com

which widgets you want to display on the Samsung UN55C6500's Widget Dock; that way, you only see the widgets you want to use.

Additionally, the UN55C6500 LED HDTV features DLNA (Digital Living Network Alliance) compatibility to let you play music, photos, and video

from other devices connected to your home network. For example, you can stream media from network-connected computers to your HDTV running Windows Vista Home Premium or Ultimate editions. Of course, an HDTV wouldn't be much without a great-looking picture. Samsung's UN55C6500

LED HDTV features 1080p resolution for top-notch image quality and a 120Hz refresh rate to ensure fast action looks smooth on-screen. And because the 55-inch UN55C6500 features LED technology, you'll use 40% less power than a conventional LCD TV, helping you save money on your energy bill. ●

Hit The Road

You've been waiting all year for your summer vacation, and your local CE retailer has the right devices that can enhance your experience, no matter where your journey takes you. So whether you're taking off for a beach vacation or following your favorite baseball team across the country, make sure you don't leave home without them.

Dooney & Bourke Laptop Tote

Travel in style and keep your notebook safe at the same time. The center zip compartment means you can bring accessories with you, too.

\$169.99

Targus Travel Power Adapters

Because your CE devices help you stay in touch with those back home, keep them charged no matter where in the world you happen to be traveling.

\$24.99

Canon PowerShot SD1200 IS Digital ELPH Camera

Capture the best moments of your vacation in photo or video form to share with loved ones back home.

\$179.99

FLO TV Personal Television

Make sure you don't miss any of your favorite shows when you're taking a much-needed vacation.

\$249.99

Sony Noise-Canceling Earbuds

The included in-flight adapter means you can listen to your favorite tunes on the plane and then take them with you while you lie on the beach or hike through a national park.

\$89.99

Nikon Trailblazer Binoculars

Whether bird watching, at a concert or on safari, these 10x50 binoculars will make sure you don't miss anything.

\$195.99

Powerfully Simple.

The power of a D-SLR. The simplicity of a point-and-shoot. The clarity of an HD camcorder.
All at the price you want. Introducing the new Olympus PEN E-PL1.
Get everything you want.

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New Generation System Cameras

SKU: 9769158



12.3
MEGA
PIXELS

LIVE GUIDE

720P
HD
MOVIE

IS
IMAGE
STABILIZATION
BUILT-IN

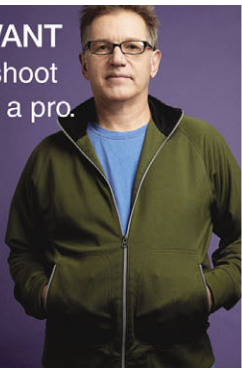
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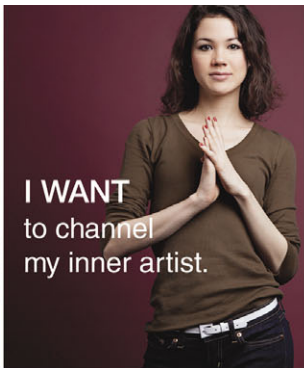
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INTELLIGENT
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DUST REDUCTION
SYSTEM

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to shoot
like a pro.



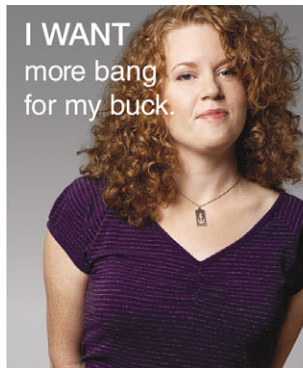
I WANT
to channel
my inner artist.



I WANT
to direct...
in HD.



I WANT
more bang
for my buck.



I WANT
to ignore
the manual.



OLYMPUS

Capture It All.®